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Letter From the Editor

"Call me, Ismail." That was the message conveyed by Bruce McNall to Notre Dame's extraordinary tailback last spring.

Some weeks ago, the amateur Raghbir (Rocket) Ismail, having little or no money in his pocket and nothing particular to interest him in remaining in school, renounced his final season of eligibility at South Bend. So began the professional journey of Ismail, the projected No. 1 selection in the National Football League draft.

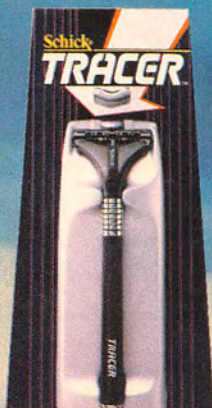
But McNall, the majority owner of the Toronto franchise in the Canadian Football League, offered an alternative course: Set sail with him. And like the mythical Argonauts, Ismail was enticed by the promise of fabulous riches. On the eve of the NFL draft, he signed on with Toronto for a guaranteed \$18 million, with the possibility of earning an additional \$8 million. Thus Ismail, unlike his legendary counterparts, obtained his golden fleece before ever setting foot on the good ship Argo. He did first have to navigate safely past the rocky New England Patriots, the sorriest team on any shore a year ago, and then resist the charms of that Dallas siren Jimmy Johnson, who had secured the top pick in the NFL draft from New England. And just as Jason (formerly the most athletically gifted Argonaut) had sown dragon's teeth from which sprouted a host of warriors, from Ismail's signing arose so many of less bellicose temperament, fighting among themselves only for season tickets to the Toronto home games.

Having been rejected by Ismail, Dallas set its sights on Miami University defensive tackle Russell Maryland, whom it took with the first pick in the draft. That reunited him with his former college coach, Johnson, whose maneuvering on draft day brought additional choices for the rapidly improving Cowboys. They hope to emulate the success enjoyed by the San Francisco 49ers and the New York Giants, whose shrewd talent appraisals have resulted in a combined five Super Bowl titles in the last seven years.

The 49ers will be without two of the players partly responsible for their prosperity in the 1980s. Running back Roger Craig and safety Ronnie Lott, unprotected in Plan B, signed with the Los Angeles Raiders. The Giants, whose power game overcame the Buffalo Bills' no-huddle offense in the most exciting Super Bowl in XXV years, will defend their championship without Bill Parcells, who abruptly resigned as head coach in May. His successor, Ray Handley, inherits a pair of Super Bowl-winning quarterbacks. Jeff Hostetler, an understudy, was thrust unexpectedly into the spotlight when Phil Simms was injured late last season. Choosing a starter is the kind of problem every other coach wishes he had. Nevertheless it is the first order of business for Handley this summer.

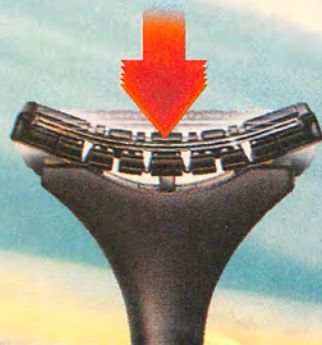
Gerald Kavanagh

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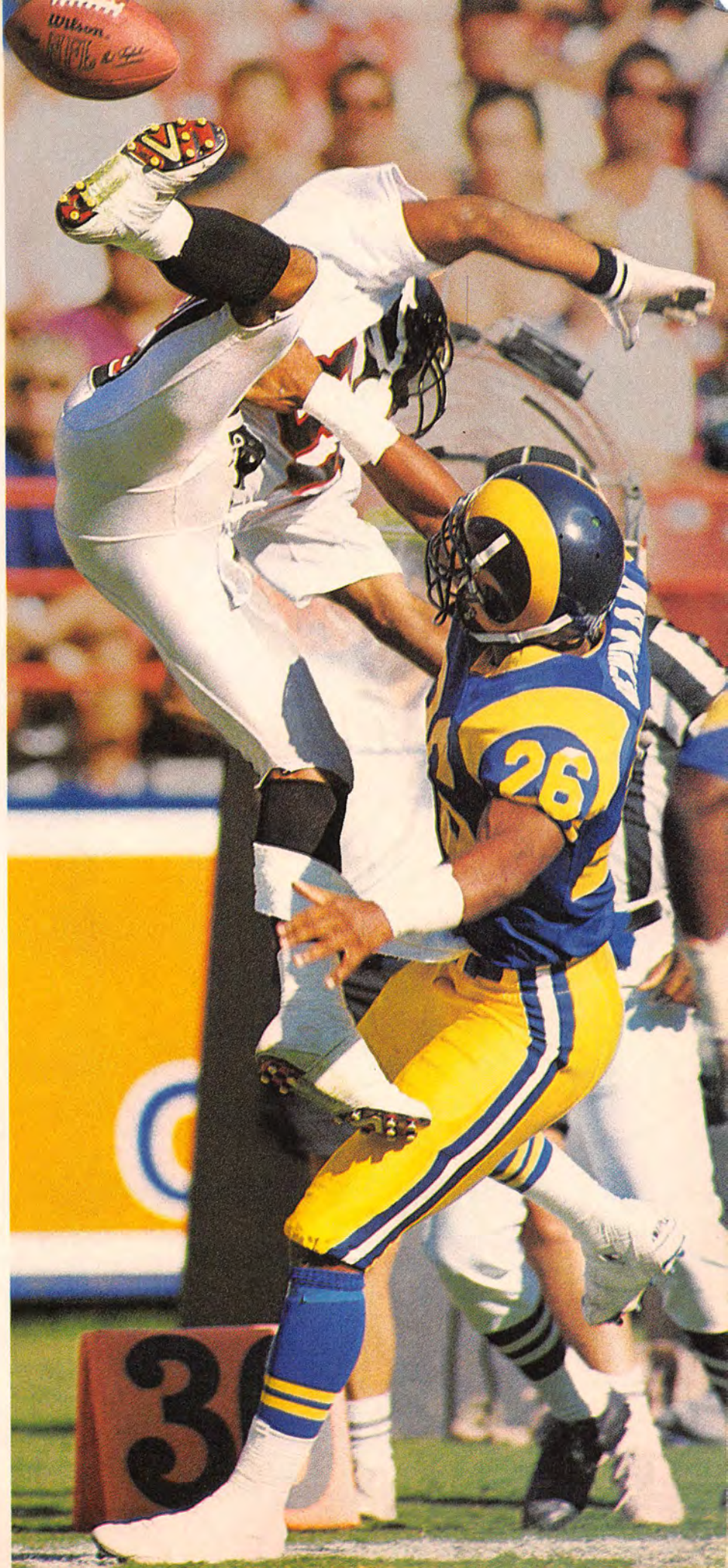
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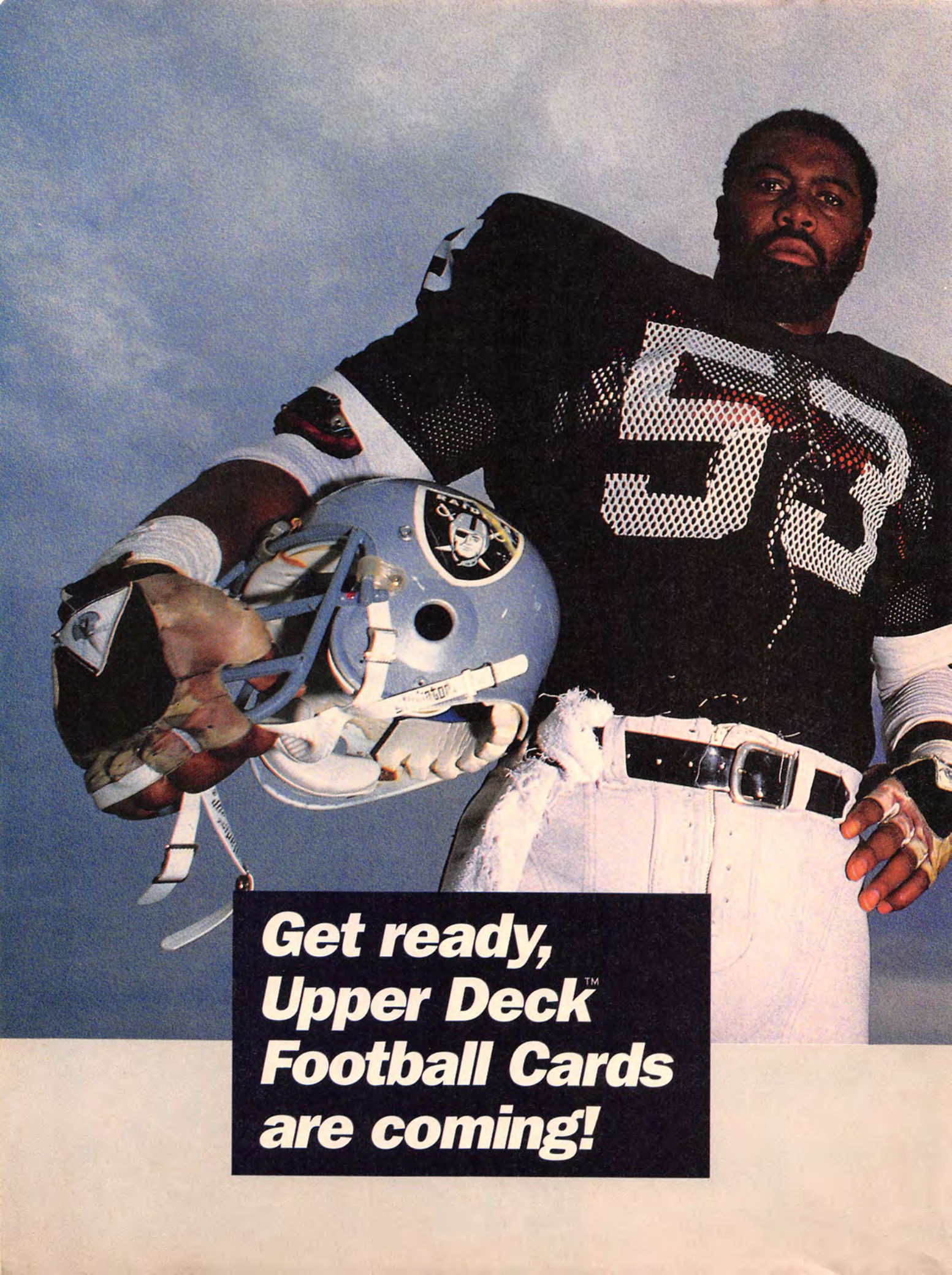
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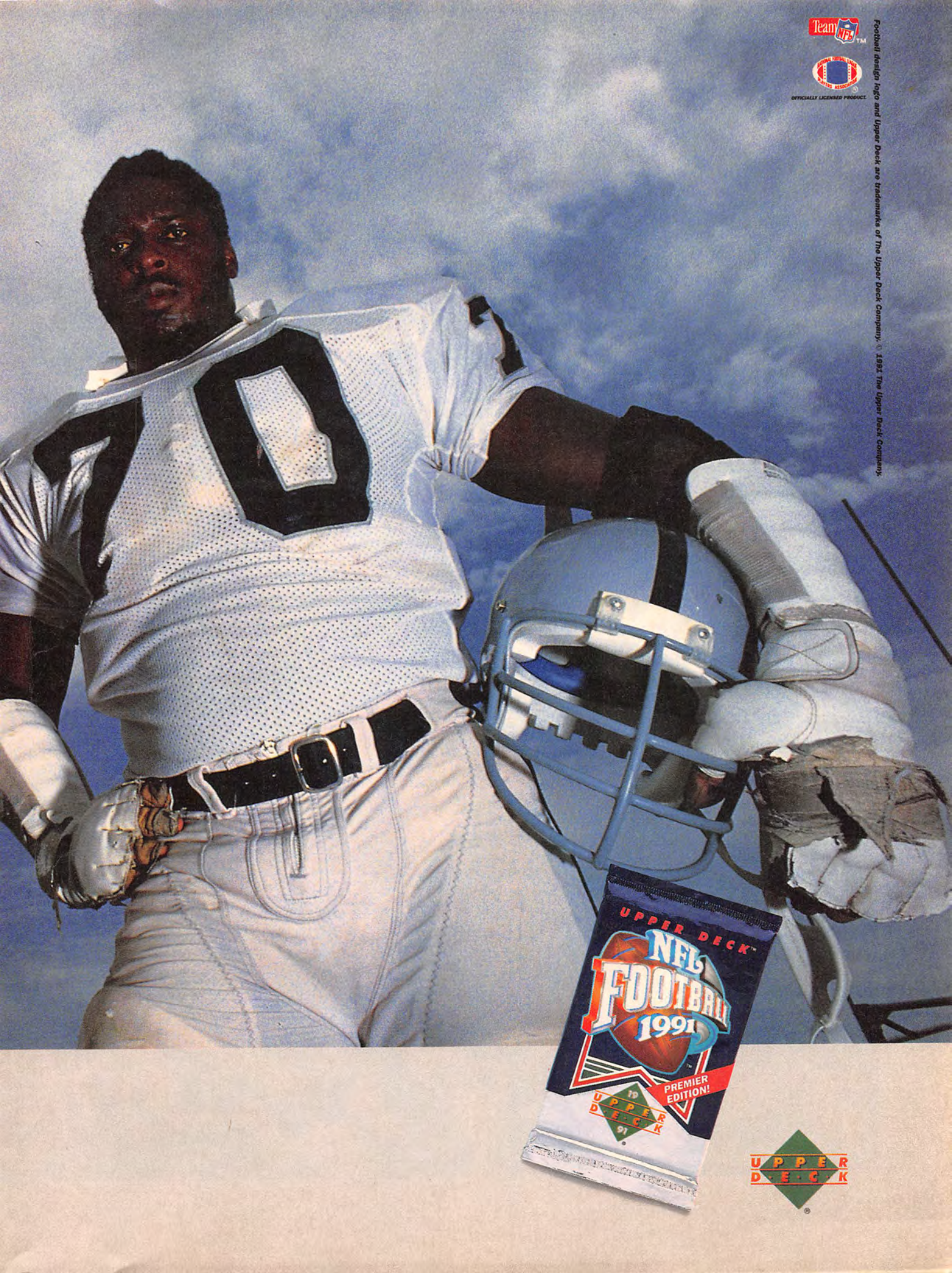
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ON THE OFFENSIVE

by **LARRY FELSER** BUFFALO NEWS

● Bill Parcells tried not to appear smug, but it was a losing battle. His New York Giants had defeated the Buffalo Bills in Super Bowl XXV less than 24 hours earlier, a victory due in significant part to coaching strategy. "Power football," crowed Parcells, "still wins."

Well, yes, but on Super Sunday it had won by a mere point, 20-19, despite controlling the football for two thirds of the game and performing virtually without mistakes. That is why there is a debate taking place within the NFL today over which offense is the attack of the immediate future. Is it the Giants' primitive, spit-in-your-eye, ball-control brand? Or is it Buffalo's racehorse, no-huddle style of non-stop pressure, which led the league in scoring? Not only is imitation the sincerest form of flattery, but in the NFL it is usually a by-product of the Super Bowl champion. Whatever wins on Super Sunday is attempted by a number of the victors' brethren the next season.

Super Bowl XXV was so competitive, however, that imitation travels a divided highway in 1991. The Pittsburgh Steelers made it known that they are going back to basics, adapting the Giants' way. The Detroit Lions, on the other hand, jettisoned Mouse Davis,

their run-and-shoot guru, along with his disciple, June Jones. The Lions are adapting their "Silver Stretch" into a more conventional attack, modeled on that of Buffalo's.

No-Huddle Offense

The Lions and a lot of other football people became convinced about the no-huddle as they watched the Bills lay waste to the Los Angeles Raiders in the AFC championship game. Not since the 1941 Chicago Bears devastated the Washington Redskins, 71-0, had a title game been so one-sided. By half time, the Raiders had suffered the worst humiliation of the 28-season Al Davis era. The score at intermission was 41-3. The second half was an exercise in the quality of mercy on the Bills' way to a 51-3 finish.

The explosion against the Raiders was no anomaly. The Philadelphia Eagles were struck by no-huddle lightning in the first quarter of a December game. By the time their heads were cleared, the Eagles were behind, 24-0, with time still remaining in the first quarter. In the playoff quarterfinals, the Bills roared to a 27-10 lead over Miami, from which the Dolphins never fully recovered. Despite a fine, wet snow which fell all day in Rich Stadium, Jim Kelly passed for 339 yards and three touchdowns from the no-huddle.

Meanwhile, as the Bills threatened to convert football into a ballet, the Giants remained partial to out-and-out bludgeoning. That is the only word appropriate to their 15-13 victory over the San Francisco 49ers in the NFC championship game. There is no secret to the Giants' way. Their formula for success is the continual accumulation of good players who are bigger, stronger, and more durable than

those of the next team. No dunces need apply. Parcells has no tolerance for mistakes. That is why he is so reluctant to play rookies, even the most prized of draft choices.

Power Game

When New York sets up its draft board in preparation for the annual spring selections, there is a specific profile to which the Giants' strategists adhere. No matter how skilled a player may be, he doesn't go on their priority list unless he has Giant size. Few of those nifty San Francisco offensive linemen who finessed their way to four Super Bowls would have made the New York roster. No 220-pound, pass-catching tight ends for them.

Rodney Hampton, the Georgia running back who was New York's first-round draft choice a year ago, broke in with a 93-yard touchdown run against Buffalo in the first pre-season game, but the week before the regular season opened, Parcells made it clear that the venerable Ottis Anderson was going to do most of the playing. "You guys have Hampton in Canton already," Parcells needled the press. "He isn't there yet."

Nevertheless, Parcells had a major role in mind for Hampton in the Giants' power style. Late in the year, before an injury put him on the sidelines for the season, Hampton would be brought into the game when the opposing defense was reeling from constant pounding and least able to cope with the rookie's speed and acceleration. What made the defenders woozy was attempting to fight off the blocks of the bruising fullback Maurice Carthon and stop the 225-pound Anderson play after play. Once they were worn down, Parcells chose to give them a change of pace with Hampton. It

The power game of the Giants barely overcame the wide-open style of the Bills in the most competitive and exciting Super Bowl.



Jim Kelly



Thurman Thomas

Bob Roscio

Pete J. Goff



**Rodney
Hampton**

ON THE OFFENSIVE

was a signal of the power game's effectiveness that the Giants could win the Super Bowl without Hampton. They used Dave Meggett, a specialty back, in a reduced version of Hampton's role.

The making of a successful no-huddle offense is more complicated. The Bills, for instance, have an offensive line suited to a power attack. Right tackle Howard Ballard is 6-foot-6 and 325 pounds, right guard John Davis is 6-4 and 310, left tackle Will Wolford 6-5 and 295. All-pro center Kent Hull and left guard Jim Ritcher are the lightest, at 275.

There must be speed and depth among the receivers to make the no-huddle function. The Bills got into full gear when veteran James Lofton rediscovered his prime to form a deadly combination with Pro Bowler Andre Reed. The tight end Keith McKeller is a big, fast ex-college basketball player who can run with the wide receivers. All the extra receivers have speed. This paid off for Buffalo in the playoff game against Miami when the Bills were able to match Reed against Dolphin strong safety Louis Oliver. Reed burned Oliver, catching a 40-yard touchdown pass to open the scoring less than two minutes into the game. "It was lick-your-chops time," said Reed. "If the field had been dry, I would have had 300 yards in catches." As it turned out, he finished with 122. Lofton had 149 yards.

The key, of course, is a quarterback the caliber of Kelly, who has the ability to run the game. He is the first NFL quarterback since Jim Plunkett of the Raiders to call most of his own plays. Ted Marchibroda, the Bills' offensive coordinator, watched Kelly supervise come-from-behind victories several times in 1988 and '89. The most convincing rally occurred against Miami early in '89 when Kelly scored with no time remaining to stun the Dolphins in Joe Robbie Stadium.

"I thought, 'If he can do that at critical moments of a game, why couldn't he do it for most of a game?'" reasoned Marchibroda.



Run-and-Shoot

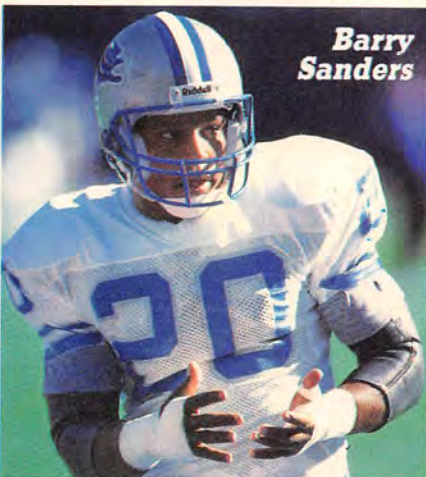
Kelly pushed hard for the no-huddle. He had been the USFL's Most Valuable Player in 1984 as a Houston Gambler in the run-and-shoot offense fashioned by Mouse Davis. After Buffalo won a 47-41 shootout from the Oilers in the Astrodome in 1989, Kelly publicly asked for something akin to the no-huddle, if

not an outright run-and-shoot. Mark Levy, the Bills' conservative head coach, still had to be convinced. For two years, every time someone even mentioned run-and-shoot, Levy would frown. The convincing took place in the Bills' sensational 34-30 playoff loss to the Browns in Cleveland. Kelly threw for 405 yards that day, and might have been the victorious hero of the game except that Ronnie Harmon dropped what should have been Kelly's fourth touchdown pass in the end zone in the final seconds.

When the 1990 season began, Buffalo opened with the no-huddle in a victory over Indianapolis. Kelly had been positioned in his comfort zone. But Levy still reserves the option of when to use the no-huddle. "In some games, we use it so a team doesn't have a lot of time to call its defensive signals," said Levy. "In the opener against Indianapolis, we used it as an element of surprise. At other times, we use it to change the rhythm of a game."

Cincinnati's Sam Wyche, upon whose own no-huddle offense the Bills' attack is patterned, says the Bengals' style is different. The Bengals can run their entire play book without a huddle. Buffalo deals in sequences. "Theirs is more up-tempo," said Wyche. "Ours is designed to prevent the defense from substituting and to cause confusion."

The Bills' version of the no-huddle has been called "a weatherproof run-and-shoot." When Tim Rooney, a Giants' scout, witnessed the dissection of the Raiders in the AFC championship game, he called it "a disguised run-and-shoot." He added, "The tight end, McKeller, lines up like a wideout, and you can look at Thurman Thomas as a slot back." The



difference in Buffalo's version is that there is flexibility. When Kelly suffered a knee injury in a regular-season victory over the Giants, the Bills changed their offensive personality under backup quarterback Frank Reich. Thomas ran the ball 30 times for 154 yards as Buffalo gained 206 yards on the ground.

The run-and-shoot does not have that sort of versatility. That is why Detroit has opted for change. The Lions have one of the premier backs in football in Barry Sanders, and coach Wayne Fontes became convinced that Sanders was being wasted. "Mouse just believed the whole offense was predicated on the passing game," said Fontes of Davis, his for-

mer offensive coordinator. "His whole thing is that we're going to run the ball in order to make the pass work."

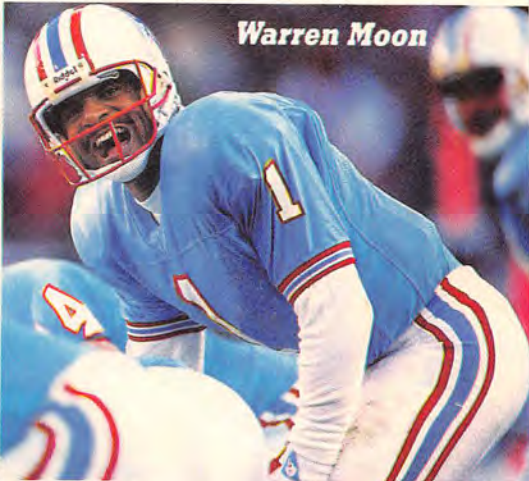
That's O.K. with Sanders, who kept a sharp eye on Thomas, his ex-Oklahoma State teammate, during Buffalo's Super Bowl season. "The thing a lot of guys were saying is we were not being sound in what we did," said Sanders. "I'm an open-field runner and we didn't have any pitch plays, for instance. I know in one game—I think it was against Atlanta—they were stacking the line against us. They had seven or eight people on the line, and we had just five blockers. Mathematically it just didn't work out."

The run-and-shoot worked out for Houston. Warren Moon was a quarterback made for the offense. He tied the NFL record for 300-yard games, with nine. His 4,689 yards passing in 1990 was the fifth-highest total in league history. Dan Marino and Dan Fouts are the only quarterbacks to exceed Moon's numbers. They each did it twice. Moon's show-and-tell game occurred against Kansas City, one of the strongest defenses in the league. He passed for 527 yards and three touchdowns as the Oilers upset the Chiefs. He also threw six touchdown passes against Cincinnati's veteran secondary. "I would have bet my house he wouldn't have thrown for 500 yards against our defense," said Kansas City coach Marty Schottenheimer.

Sometimes even the threat of Moon in the run-and-shoot is enough to unsettle an opponent. Buffalo overplayed Houston's passing attack in a Monday night game last November, so running back Lorenzo White became the focal point in the Oilers victory. Houston's version of the offense could expand if a speedier ball-carrier with more explosion than White can be obtained.

Ball Control

Yet even the no-huddle has its flaws. Levy admits that the Bills' penchant for scoring quickly through their slam-bang offense can backfire by putting the defense on the field too often. That is what happened in the Philadelphia game. The Eagles rallied against a tired defense to cut Buffalo's lead to one point. The Bills finally won, 30-23. A tired defense against a great quarterback is always an equalizer. Randall Cunningham made the



How to get this close without getting rattled.

play of the year in that game, evading Bruce Smith in the end zone to avoid a safety, then firing a pass to Fred Barnett to complete a 95-yard touchdown.

In the playoffs, Miami closed from 20-3 to 30-27 before Buffalo pulled away. Dan Marino revived his team with a 323-yard, three-touchdown performance. When the Bills' defense was panting for breath, Marino made it a game by completing a sensational 38-yard pass to Mark Duper on fourth-and-five from the Buffalo 42.

In the Super Bowl, the Giants won the game with two ball-control drives of 87 and 75 yards. The latter consumed 9 minutes, 29 seconds.

On the other hand, it's also possible to control the ball with the no-huddle. In Buffalo's victory over Miami that clinched the AFC East title, the Bills broke open the game in the third quarter when they held the ball for 12 minutes, 37 seconds, keeping Marino on the bench.

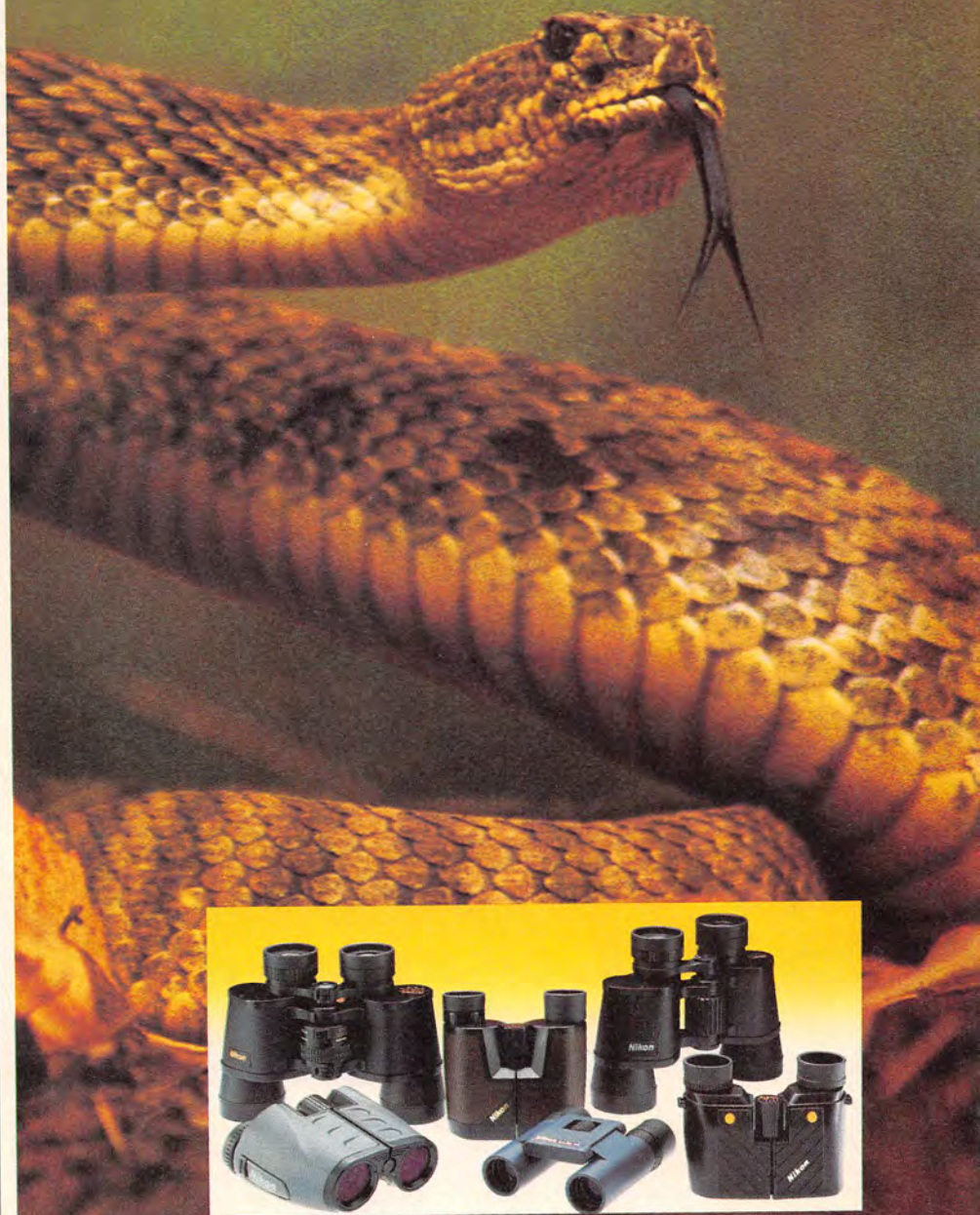
Adherents of the no-huddle also point out that one of the major problems in the Super Bowl was that Parcells and his staff clearly outcoached Levy and his. At no time during the Giants' long drives did Buffalo throw seven- or eight-man defensive lines into the game, to try to force quarterback Jeff Hostetler to pass more than Parcells intended. For that matter, the Giants' defense often used two- and three-man lines early in the game, almost begging Kelly to run Thomas more often. He didn't, and the Buffalo coaches apparently never advised him to do so.

Six weeks after their Super Bowl defeat, the Bills were taking stock of the no-huddle. "I think when you are in a hurry-up offense like we play, at times you tend to hurry up all the more," said Kelly. "Maybe too much. Maybe you get sloppy." Levy is convinced the Bills must deal with the extra pressure put on the defense by an attack that scores so quickly. "We have to get bigger and more durable on defense," he maintained. "We have to become more like the Giants defensively."

The Giants shouldn't have to tinker much with their power attack in 1991. Center Bart Oates considered retirement after the Super Bowl, but his future replacement, young Brian Williams, a first-round draft choice in 1989, is three inches taller and 35 pounds heavier than Oates. Williams may turn out to be better-suited for Parcells's offense. Some of the assistant coaches urged the boss to play Williams more last year. Anderson, despite being named the Most Valuable Player in the Super Bowl, was exposed to Plan B free agency. At 33, anything he has left would be a bonus for the Giants. Lee Rouson was lost to Plan B, and so GM George Young took Michigan fullback Jarrod Bunch in the first round of the draft as the eventual successor to Carthon. Yet Parcells has versatility on his bench, and Lewis Tillman, an unsung back, may just need to play in order to become an effective part of the power machine. The extra dimension in the power attack will be that Hampton is more experienced and therefore to be trusted more by the coach.

An immediate rematch has never happened in the Super Bowl. Considering the quality of Super Bowl XXV, who would complain about the argument being resumed in the Minnesota Metrodome next January? □

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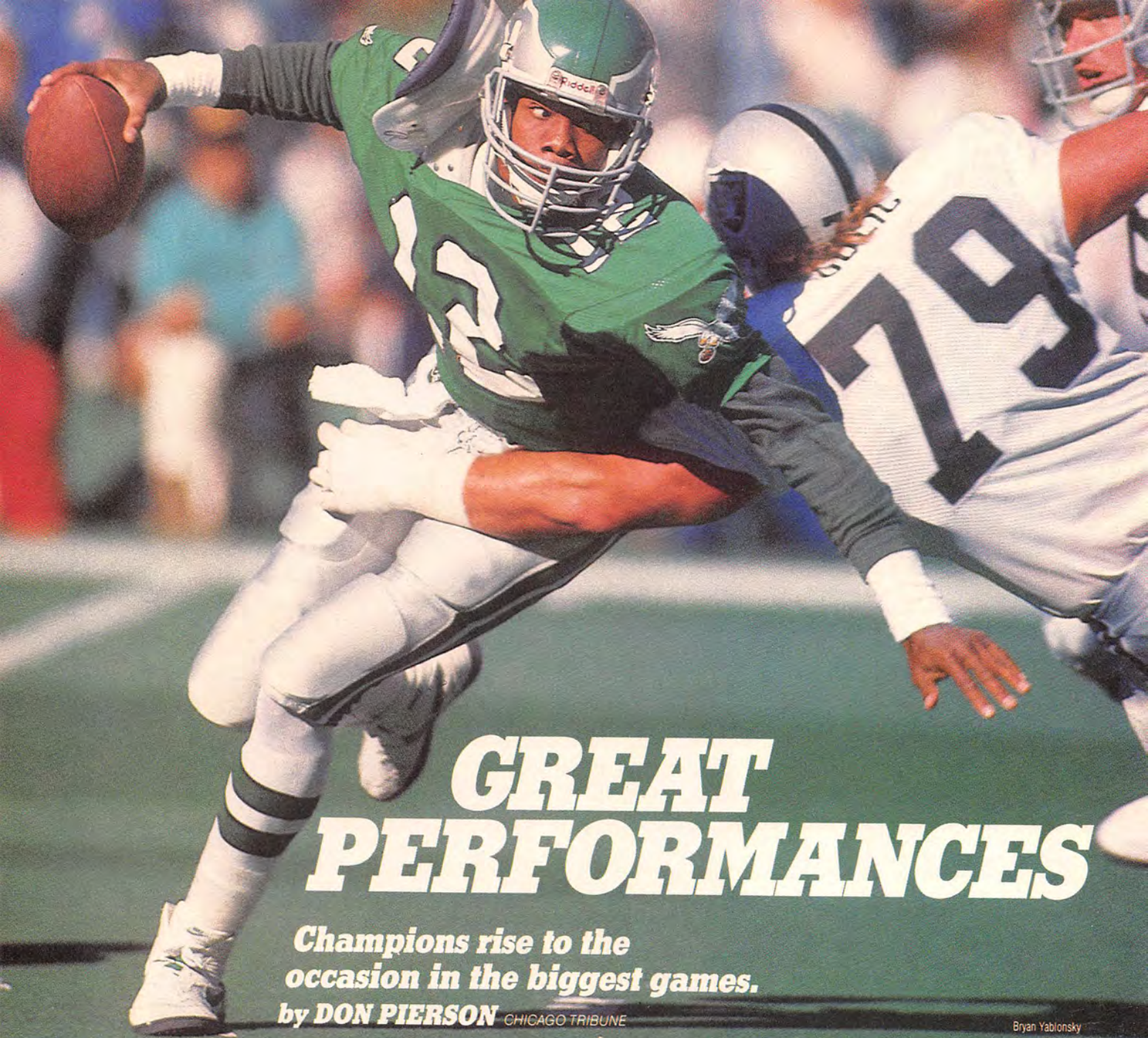
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GREAT PERFORMANCES

Champions rise to the occasion in the biggest games.

by **DON PIERSON** CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Bryan Yablonsky

● Randall Cunningham fades into his own end zone and into his own twilight zone. The play of the year is now in slow motion. Violins are accompanying Cunningham's special drumbeat. Using eyes magically tucked in the back of his helmet, the quarterback of the Philadelphia Eagles feels pressure and ducks safely underneath the sweeping arm of Buffalo Bills' defensive end Bruce Smith. Righting himself and moving now to his left, he heaves a pass across his body half the length of the field. Slowly falling out of the sky like a punt, the ball arrives close enough for receiver Fred Barnett to make a leaping catch and break for a 95-yard touchdown.

So what?

As big plays go, it had every ingredient in the television-highlight-editors' handbook. The quarterback hero cleverly eluded the defensive villain. It was a pass. It was a leaping

catch. It was a run. It was a touchdown. It was the longest play of the year. It led the news. It also meant virtually nothing. For all the play's spectacular beauty, it lacked depth. It was a regular-season game. Cunningham's team lost. The play was missing the dramatic setting necessary to endure.

When Steve Sabol, producer of NFL Films, was asked where the play stood among the great ones of all time, he said nowhere. There was simply nothing at stake. Instead, Sabol put it into a separate category. "It was the kind of play that defines a career," Sabol said. Cunningham was player of the year by most accounts, an honor earned by his uncanny and consistent ability to make big plays.

The Big Play is so important in football that Cunningham's former coach, Buddy Ryan, devised a statistic that helps keep track of a player's ability to rise to the occasion. It is

called M.O.B.P.: Missed Opportunity for a Big Play—a negative stat. Ryan routinely used it as a motivating tool, especially for defensive players who need every bit of positive recognition they can find. Ryan would slap an M.O.B.P. notation onto the report card of any defensive back who so much as got a fingernail on a ball and failed to come up with an interception. Ryan figured big plays were expected of every good football player, just as pars are expected of every good golfer. An M.O.B.P. is football's version of a bogey.

Reputations live and die with big plays, often in the same instant, because many big plays are the result of blown plays. Many of sports' moments to remember are immediately preceded by moments to forget. The big plays of Joe Namath and the 1969 New York Jets that won Super Bowl III and forged pro football's merger are forever prefaced by the

lonely figure of wide-open Baltimore Colts' receiver Jimmy Orr frantically waving his arms for all to see except quarterback Earl Morrall. Joe Montana's touchdown strike to John Taylor to complete the 92-yard drive that won Super Bowl XXIII for the San Francisco 49ers followed a dropped interception by Lewis Billups of the Cincinnati Bengals.

Sabol's film "The Greatest Plays of the Last 25 Years" asks the question: "Is it blind luck or a champion's instinct that puts a player in the right place at the right time?" For the greatest players, the answer is clear. Players become great only after being in the right place at the right time so often there can be no doubt that luck's eyes are looking for them.

Those eyes have yet to stare at Cunningham. They flirt, but then they turn away at the darnedest times, such as in the playoffs. Three years now, and Cunningham has not thrown a touchdown pass in a playoff game. It is a major reason why Ryan is his former coach. The big plays that got the Eagles to the playoffs weren't good enough to soothe the offseason memory of owner Norman Braman.

Until Cunningham makes the big plays in the big games, he is merely a spectacular quarterback, capable of extraordinary feats at ordinary moments. To reach the next level, Cunningham needs to complete "The Catch" of San Francisco's Joe Montana to Dwight Clark in 1981. He needs to replicate John Elway's 98-yard drive that put the Denver Broncos into the Super Bowl. He must not only duck opponents and throw touchdown passes and leap into end zones and punt from one goal post to another, he must catch a ball on his hip the way Minnesota's Ahmad Rashad once did to put the Vikings into the playoffs or the way Dallas's Drew Pearson did to knock the Vikings out.

Football games turn on the fine line of big plays, often on an incredible small number of

Randall Cunningham is spectacular, but Lawrence Taylor and Joe Montana make the big plays consistently.



Al Koostira

them. Dick Butkus once mused after watching a Sabol video that his entire career, his gigantic reputation, had just been boiled down to a 10-minute highlight tape of crunching hits. All the years—all the hours of practice, all the games, all the plays, all the tackles, all the blocks—had been reduced to one short-subject clip. Butkus marveled more at the brevity of it all than at his far-reaching impact. He pointed out how limited his opportunities were to make big plays and how he was just fortunate to take as much advantage as he did.

The greatest play of the last 25 years, according to Sabol's research, is the "Immaculate Reception." Fluky as it was, it marked the beginning of the Pittsburgh Steelers' dynasty. Franco Harris was only a rookie when he scooped the pass that had caromed off Oakland Raiders' safety Jack Tatum and receiver Frenchy Fuqua and ran down the sideline for a touchdown that beat the Raiders, 13-7, in the 1972 playoffs. The Steelers lost the following week, but the magic was established that would dominate the 1970s.

To this day, the Raiders scoff and insist they were cheated and robbed. Al Davis claims Fuqua batted the ball, which would have made Harris's catch illegal at the time. Raiders' linebacker Phil Villapiano pointed out that Harris was doing nothing except casually trailing the play after Villapiano had left him to pursue downfield. "Had I been as lazy as Franco, I'd have made the catch waist-high," Villapiano said. But Harris's good fortune proved a harbinger of a Hall of Fame career in which big plays became routine for him.

"What separates the winning teams from the other teams is the star who makes the big play when you have to have it," said Tex Schramm, who hired his own Hall of Fame wing of big-play performers for the Dallas Cowboys. "The teams that are always losing in the quarterfinals and semifinals have the players who don't make the big plays. I think Roger Staubach was the tops of them all when it came to making big plays. They are unique people. Staubach did the same thing at Navy. That's what they get the big money for."

Drew Pearson's Hail Mary catch from Staubach was only one example of how the free-agent receiver managed to make big plays with predictable regularity. "If you look at the great plays in Cowboys' history, Drew Pearson is usually somewhere in there. Even when Tony Dorsett ran 99 yards for that touchdown on Monday night, the last block way downfield was made by Drew," Schramm said.

For one game of big plays, the performance of San Diego tight end Kellen Winslow in the 1982 playoffs against the Miami Dolphins stands above the rest. The Chargers won, 41-38, in 13:52 of overtime after Winslow caught 13 passes for 166 yards and a touchdown and blocked a 34-yard Miami field-goal attempt in overtime. The game was recently voted the best of the 1980s, and the sight of the exhausted Winslow being helped off the field by teammates is the modern prototype of the warrior spent in battle.

The 1990 season was no exception to the rule that big plays will decide the heroes of the new decade. Here is a look at the biggest plays in the biggest games:

1. Lawrence Taylor's recovery of Roger Craig's fumble in the NFC championship game. The 49ers were leading the Giants, 13-

12, at the New York 39-yard line with 2:36 to play when Craig fumbled. Taylor recovered in mid-air and the Giants won the game on Matt Bahr's fifth field goal.

"That's why he's the defensive player of the decade, to come up with plays like that," coach Bill Parcells said of Taylor.

It was a play that may go down in 49er history as the final punctuation mark in a dynasty that began with The Catch. But it was only the final big play in a series of events that ended San Francisco's quest for a third straight Super Bowl title. Earlier, Montana had been knocked from the game on a bone-rattling hit by Leonard Marshall. Had Montana remained, would he have been handing off on the crucial drive? Some think not, even though Craig is a reliable ball-carrier.

Although Taylor came up with the ball, it was nose tackle Erik Howard who knocked it loose after knifing between a double-team block. There was little Craig might have done to prevent the fumble. CBS commentator John Madden called it the best play he had ever seen by a nose tackle.

Not only did the fumble end the 49ers' goal of a "threepeat," it marked the finish of Craig's

continued



Mike Powell/Allsport USA

stellar career in San Francisco and the end of the 49ers' tightly knit nucleus. Safety Ronnie Lott and Craig were left unprotected in the Plan B free-agency period and both signed with the Los Angeles Raiders as the 49ers looked to new horizons.

2. Mark Ingram's 14-yard catch and run in the third quarter of the Super Bowl. It was as if the Giants' receiver had been drafted No. 1 in 1987 for the sole purpose of waiting around four years to make one play. Giants' wideouts never catch many passes, and Ingram had



Thurman Thomas (above) of the Bills and Dan Marino of the Dolphins turned in outstanding individual efforts in the playoffs.

not been a target on the first 10 plays of the lengthiest drive in Super Bowl history.

Behind 12-10, the Giants took the second-half kickoff and started a 75-yard march that consumed 9:29 and sapped the Bills. But on third down and 13 from the Buffalo 32, the drive appeared out of steam. Jeff Hostetler found Ingram underneath the coverage at the 25 for what looked like an attempt to get closer for a field goal. But Ingram spun and bounced and struggled and endured and stretched for a first down in one of those moments that Sabol and his cameras will immortalize. Like a jolt of electricity, the effort jump-started the Giants. It was the most significant turning point in the closest of Super Bowls.

3. Thurman Thomas's 31-yard touchdown run to put the Bills ahead in the fourth quarter of the Super Bowl. On the first play of the final quarter, Thomas put the Bills back into the lead with a stirring, tackle-breaking run that would have clinched MVP honors for the run-

ning back had the Bills managed to hang on. Throughout the Bills' stunning no-huddle offensive show in the playoffs magnificently directed by quarterback Jim Kelly, Thomas played the most important role.

4. Kelly's playoff blitz of big plays. In three games, Kelly guided his team to 13 touchdowns and five field goals after returning from a knee injury that might have put lesser players under the knife. Breaking through any lingering doubts about his leadership or ability, Kelly became a hero to all quarterbacks by calling his own plays. He completed 66 percent of his passes for 851 yards, five touchdowns, and two interceptions in the playoffs. He made so many big plays in the Bills' 44-34 victory over Miami and their 51-3 romp over the Raiders that they overlap in the memory.

With a passer rating of 101.2 for the season, Kelly also led all quarterbacks, demonstrating that his playoff effort was a continuation of an MVP season. Cunningham got the individual recognition, but only because voters often confuse Spectacular with Valuable. Cunningham is the MSP.

5. Jeff Hostetler's 21-yard touchdown pass to Stephen Baker in the Giants' 31-3 playoff victory over the Chicago Bears. That was only the launching pad for big plays in the most dramatic story of 1990—the ultimate backup. Hostetler was taking over a Giants' team that had finished the season with shaken confidence and an injured quarterback in Phil Simms. When Hostetler lofted his perfect strike to Baker to put his team up 10-0 in the first quarter, it was like wiring a get-well mes-



sage to teammates. It followed an 11-yard pass to Mark Bavaro on third and 10 and a nine-yard scramble on fourth and six that established Hostetler as the most effective backup quarterback since Earl Morrall.

"We had the same plays open and didn't make them," Bears' coach Mike Ditka lamented afterward.

In the Giants' victory over the 49ers, it was again Hostetler who came up with the big plays after Taylor recovered Craig's fumble.

On first down, he rolled out and found Bavaro for 19 yards. On second down, he rolled right and lofted a perfect 13-yarder to Baker at the 29-yard line, field-goal territory.

6. Jay Schroeder's pass to Ethan Horton in the Raiders' 20-10 victory over the Cincinnati Bengals. Tied, 10-10, in the fourth quarter, the Raiders were on the Bengals' 41 when Schroeder lofted a ball down the sidelines to Horton, who made a fingertip catch for the winning touchdown. It was a big play for both Schroeder and Horton, two castoffs who needed career boosts. It also overshadowed the series of big plays by Marcus Allen, who took up the slack left by an injured Bo Jackson and ran for 140 yards, including 52 on the final clock-killing field-goal drive.

7. Joe Montana's big-play clinic against the Washington Redskins. In a 28-10 victory, Montana hit Jerry Rice with a 10-yard touchdown strike that cleaned the fingernails of Redskins' cornerback Darrell Green. Then he threaded a 47-yard pass to tight end Brent Jones through the crook in linebacker Andre Collins's elbow on the way toward making it 21-10.

"Three inches either way, we could have made the plays on defense," Washington coach Joe Gibbs said.

Meanwhile, Washington quarterback Mark Rypien threw interceptions in the end zone in the third and fourth quarters. By contrast, Montana threw his first interception in 180 playoff pass attempts since 1988.

"You can say how good he is all the time, but, believe me, what he does is not that easy, because everybody out there is trying to kill him and it takes a lot of guts to hang in and do what he does consistently," Washington defensive coach Richie Petitbon said.

8. Dan Marino's 8-for-8 passing for 101 yards in the fourth quarter of the Dolphins' 17-16 victory over the Kansas City Chiefs. Down 16-3, Marino emerged from an 11-for-22 performance through three quarters to perfection for the final 15 minutes, hitting Tony Paige on a one-yard TD pass and Mark Clayton on the game-winner with 3:28 left.

The 12-yard out-pattern to Clayton characterized the thin difference between ecstasy and agony that makes all sports compelling. Chiefs' cornerback Albert Lewis went for the interception, with visions of a 92-yard return propelling him toward the ball.

"I don't feel I made the wrong decision. I just didn't make the play," Lewis said.

"He was going to make the interception," Clayton said. "This game is a game of inches, and he was just one inch too short."

In the Super Bowl, Bills' place-kicker Scott Norwood would come to know the feeling. His 47-yard field-goal attempt with eight seconds left was just barely wide. A few feet to the left would have changed the perspective on the game. Scratch the NFC dynasty stories. Forget the tributes to old-fashioned football. Signal the end to run-dominated offense. Hail the advent of the no-huddle attack.

One big play turned into an M.O.B.P. for Norwood. Unforgiving fans believe he lost the Super Bowl. Thoughtful ones who appreciate the tiny margins defining all big plays understand that he merely failed to win it. There is a big difference. □



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CAUGHT IN THE DRAFT

By shrewd maneuvering on draft day, the rebuilt Cowboys hope to emulate the success of the Giants and the 49ers.

by TIM COWLISHAW

DALLAS MORNING NEWS

On Thursday, December 27, Miami athletic director Sam Jankovich visited the Irving, Texas office of his former employee, Jimmy Johnson. This was not big news in the NFL. Perhaps it should have been. Jankovich's visit was no simple social call. It marked the beginning of a new NFL relationship, one that would leave its mark on the draft some four months later. Jankovich was about to become CEO of the New England Patriots, the worst team in the NFL in 1990. And he wanted to know just how Johnson had gone about transforming the Dallas Cowboys, the league's worst team in 1989, into a club that was one victory away from the playoffs.

"There were parallels," Jankovich said. "We wanted to find out about the transition."



Mitchell B. Reibel

traded New England the 11th and 41st spots in the draft and three veteran players—linebackers Eugene Lockhart and David Howard and cornerback Ron Francis—for the No. 1 selection in the draft. Johnson then used that pick to add Miami defensive tackle Russell Maryland to the nucleus of talent he had assembled since taking charge at Dallas.

The trade for the top choice, blockbuster that it was, was nothing new for Johnson's Cowboys. It was the 26th trade he had made

in 26 months on the job, and he made three more on draft day, including another one with Jankovich that gave the Patriots a second first-round pick. A perfect example of how Johnson likes to play Let's Make a Deal: Although Dallas finished near the middle of the NFL pack, the Cowboys made 10 selections in the draft's first four rounds.

"When it comes to personnel, we're aggressive by nature," Johnson said. "I think that comes from years of recruiting in college. I did not feel we could make a complete turnover, personnel-wise, with just the draft. And we're not patient enough to wait just for the draft. The thing [team owner] Jerry [Jones] and I talked about when we came here was we would use every means possible to bring in better talent. When you're as active as we are, not every one of them is going to work out."



Bob Rosato

"When you look at the players we claimed off waivers, some stayed a week and were gone. Some are starting for us—like Jack Del Rio. But we've been very active with trades and [they] have been most beneficial to us. I don't know that we got true value [from the



With the No. 1 draft picks, Dallas selected Troy Aikman (#8) in 1989 and Russell Maryland (#67) in '91, the latter via a package of choices that sent Herschel Walker (#34) to Minnesota in '89.

Johnson told Jankovich about how he had structured the scouting department, about how he involved coaches in the hunt for college talent. Three days later, the Cowboys lost their final game and missed the playoffs, but the turnaround from 1-15 to 7-9 was enough to earn Johnson Coach of the Year honors.

On April 19, Johnson continued to show Jankovich how one goes about building an NFL club. Whether he furthered the Patriots' own rebuilding plans remains to be seen. Two days before the April 21 draft, the Cowboys



Mitchell B. Reibel

Frank Anderson

Giants] for Steve DeOssie, a sixth-round pick. That's on the down side, but what we got for Herschel Walker, Steve Pelluer, and Steve Walsh is outstanding."

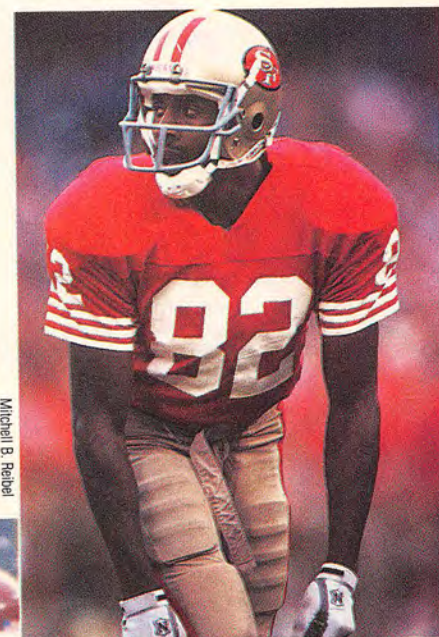
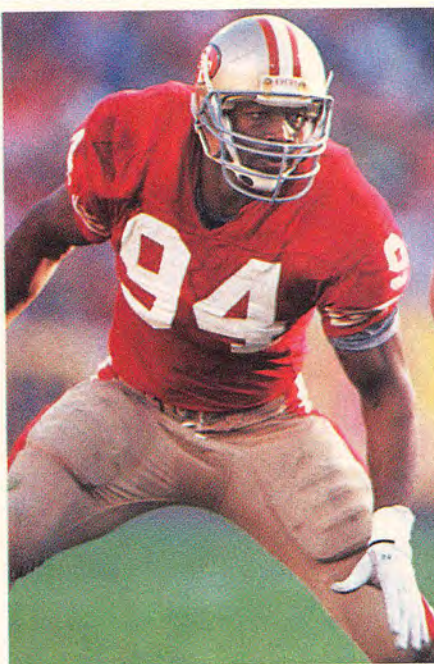
Johnson decided quickly in 1989 that he would prefer to start Troy Aikman as a rookie over the veteran Pelluer, so he dealt the Cowboys' starter to Kansas City for a third-round pick in 1990 that factored into the trade for Danny Stubbs and a fourth-round pick this year he used to select Oregon quarterback Bill Musgrave. Some scouts feel Musgrave will be a solid NFL backup long after Pelluer has finished an undistinguished career.

One can argue whether Dallas's dealings with Walsh were quite so productive. Had the Cowboys not chosen him in the supplemental draft in 1989, they would have owned the top pick in the 1990 draft. But based on what Walsh has shown in his two NFL seasons, the Cowboys certainly got good value from New Orleans (first- and third-round selections in 1991, a second in 1992).

It's the Walker deal that stands out as the one that will shape the Cowboys' franchise for the '90s. Since Johnson has made so many subsequent trades with picks that came out of that trade, it's virtually impossible to show exactly what Dallas has reaped from the Walker trade. But essentially, in exchange for Walker and two third-round choices, Dallas now has running back Emmitt Smith, the Offensive Rookie of the Year in 1990, starting cornerback Issiac Holt, starting linebacker Jesse Solomon, and fullback Alonzo Highsmith. That's just the beginning. The biggest piece of the package that brought Maryland to Dallas was the No. 1 pick Dallas had received from Minnesota, one the Patriots used to take offensive tackle Pat Harlow. Furthermore, the Cowboys still own the Vikings' top three picks in

the 1992 draft. Now you know why Mike Lynn left the Vikings to run the new WFLA, a league that doesn't permit trading.

"Going from the worst team in the league to the playoffs the next year would have been one of the biggest turnarounds ever," Johnson said. "And there's no doubt in my mind that had Troy stayed healthy [he missed the last two games], we would have made the playoffs. I think it goes without saying that no one expects anything less than to make the playoffs in 1991 and to have some success in the playoffs. Now I think when you talk about being up with Philadelphia, Washington, and the Giants, you're talking about three of the best in the league. That's a big jump. We've made strides in this league, but when you get to the top of this division, you're as good as anybody in professional football."



Mitchell B. Reibel

San Francisco obtained six starters in the 1986 draft, including fullback Tom Rathman (below) and wide receiver John Taylor (#82) in Round 3 and linebacker Charles Haley (#94) in Round 4.



CAUGHT IN THE DRAFT

"In that draft, we felt the second round was really strong," Young said. "We try to draft into the strength of the draft whenever possible. It still gets down to making good picks, but it lessens your margin for error when you're picking near the end of each round."

Lately the Giants have unearthed talent in even later rounds. In 1989, they drafted 5-foot-7 running back Dave Meggett in the fifth



The Giants drafted linebacker Pepper Johnson (above) in the second round in 1986 and running back Dave Meggett (#30) in the fifth and safety Myron Guyton (#29) in the eighth rounds in '89.

and safety Myron Guyton in the eighth rounds. Guyton was a sleeper from Eastern Kentucky discovered by then-Giants' defensive coordinator Bill Belichick, who's now in charge of rebuilding the Cleveland Browns as their new head coach. "We need to find two or three Myron Guytons every year," Belichick said. "You're always looking for those types."

While Belichick hopes to emulate the Giants' early success by drafting franchise talent with high picks—he used the second pick of this draft on UCLA safety Eric Turner, a super athlete—there are no guarantees. Some teams have high picks year after year, a sign that something is going wrong.

In Tampa Bay, one wouldn't properly call it a rebuilding process for new coach Richard Williamson, since the Bucs have but one playoff victory in their 15-year history—and that came 12 seasons ago. The inability to do the right thing when it comes to quarterback decisions has been their downfall. In 1982, the Bucs traded their '83 No. 1 pick to Chicago for a second-round pick they used on defensive end Booker Reese. That served to keep the Bucs out of the great quarterback derby that took place in the first round a year later.

Look at it this way. Without the Reese trade, the Bucs use their rightful position in the '83 first round to draft Dan Marino. Then they don't trade their first in '84 for Jack Thompson and their second in '85 for Steve DeBerg. They use their first in '87 for, say, linebacker Cornelius Bennett or nose tackle Jerome Brown or cornerback Rod Woodson instead of Vinny Tes-

taverde. And they don't trade their No. 1 in '92 for Chris Chandler.

The Bucs are far from alone in being regularly unable to profit from strong draft position. Take the Cardinals' drafts. Please. This is a club that made its most recent postseason trip (not counting the inflated strike playoffs of '82) when Gerald Ford was in the White House. Earl Butz wasn't the only one who fell from grace back then. First-round picks such as quarterback Steve Pisarkiewicz in '77, kicker Steve Little in '78, wide receiver Clyde Duncan in '84 and quarterback Kelly Stouffer in '87 (they couldn't sign him) have kept the Cards near the bottom of the NFC Eastern Division for years.

No, there are no sure things in the business of building football champions, as the Atlanta Falcons learned in 1988—O.K., they had probably already learned it by then—when they made linebacker Aundray Bruce the No. 1 pick of the draft. Three years later, trying to trade with New England for the first pick in the '91 draft, the Falcons could not even interest the Pats in Bruce as a throw-in to the deal.

Atlanta may have atoned for Bruce when it traded the top choice of the '90 draft to Indianapolis so the Colts could select quarterback Jeff George. The Falcons received a fine tack-



le in Chris Hinton, got 82 catches and 10 touchdowns from Andre Rison, and added Colorado wide receiver Mike Pritchard this year as part of the George package. This is one trade where both clubs feel they have advanced their rebuilding programs. It doesn't always work out that way.

No general manager has displayed a more consistent willingness to trade draft picks than Bobby Beathard. In Washington from 1980 through 1989, Beathard made at least one draft-day trade each year. Sometimes he came out looking marvelous. In 1981, he sent the Redskins' top pick in '82 to the Rams for a third-round pick (guard Russ Grimm), two fifth-round picks (one of them Dexter Manley), and a second in '82 (safety Vernon Dean). Some didn't provide such positive results. In 1986, he traded his first-round pick in '87 to San Francisco in order to draft wide receiver Walter Murray of Hawaii. He might as well

have selected Arthur Murray, since Walter never signed with the Redskins.

The Murray trade was part of what may stand out as the best single use of draft-day trading ever—only Beathard wasn't the man in charge of the wheeling and dealing. In 1986, coming off a 10-6 season, the 49ers went into draft day with eight picks, four of them in the first five rounds. When the day was over, in addition to accumulating first- and second-round picks in 1987, the 49ers had made 13 selections, eight of them in the first five rounds. And what selections. By trading down time after time with Dallas, Buffalo, Detroit, Washington, and the Rams, Bill Walsh picked up six starters in rounds three through six: fullback Tom Rathman, cornerbacks Tim McKyer and Don Griffin, wide receiver John Taylor, linebacker Charles Haley, and defen-



Mitchell B. Reibel

sive end Kevin Fagan. The 49ers also added defensive end Larry Roberts and tackle Steve Wallace, who have been part-time starters, in the second and fourth rounds.

It was a textbook lesson on how to combine poor draft position with shrewd trading and excellent scouting to produce a draft-day windfall. Oddly enough, it's the same approach the Cowboys managed to adopt this past April even after they traded up to get the first pick in the draft. Once they had secured Russell Maryland and wide receiver Alvin Harper to fill two major needs, the Cowboys traded the 14th pick down to 17, the 17th pick down to 20, and the 20th pick into the second round, where they drafted Michigan State linebacker Dixon Edwards. Along the way Dallas added four more selections from rounds three through five. If the Cowboys hit on those choices, this is a draft they will be talking about 10 years from now.

"In any beauty contest, how you rate it is in the eye of the beholder," Johnson said.

Time will decide if this is a draft to remember for the Cowboys. But after so many drafts to forget during the '80s that brought the franchise to its knees—and elevated Jones and Johnson to power—the Cowboys clearly seem to be back on course. □

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SAFETY FIRST

**After a
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San Francisco,
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● The man who has turned so many rivals black and blue will be wearing silver and black this season. And those new colors are going to seem awfully strange for a while.

Ronnie Lott was a San Francisco 49er for 10 magnificent seasons. Many think he still should be a 49er. But since professional football is as much a business as a sport, the 32-year-old Lott, aging in body if not in spirit, has moved on to the Los Angeles Raiders. Left unprotected as a Plan B free agent last spring, Lott was then offered what he considered a less than ideal deal from the 49ers to play one more season for them, and then retire to the front office with the team he had come to symbolize almost as much as Joe Montana. "I just felt I wanted to play longer, and I think I can play longer," he said. "With that in mind, I thought it would probably be best to go to the Raiders."

Lott will be playing again at the Los Angeles Coliseum, where he starred as a collegian for the University of Southern California. And

continued on page 44

by DWIGHT CHAPIN
SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER



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UNLIKELY HEROES

A handful of players surpassed all expectations a year ago.

by RICK GOSSELIN

DALLAS MORNING NEWS



STEVE DEBERG

Tim DeFrisco/Allsport USA

For **STEVE DEBERG**, the time had come to leave. Just as it had come time at San Francisco, Denver, and Tampa Bay. DeBerg had given the Kansas City Chiefs the interim two years they needed to restock their quarterback position and in the summer of 1990, the club had all but packed his suitcase for him.

At San Francisco, the 49ers traded DeBerg after a three-year stint as a starter to make room for Joe Montana. At Denver, the Broncos traded him after a two-year stint as a starter to make room for John Elway. At Tampa Bay, the Buccaneers traded him after a three-year stint to make room for Vinny Testaverde.

So the script in 1990 was a familiar one for DeBerg. The Chiefs had selected Mike Elkins in the second round of the 1989 draft and also traded for Steve Pelluer that October. They were able to watch and, it was hoped, learn from DeBerg that season, just as Montana and Elway had done in years past. Kansas City's two younger quarterbacks then polished their games in the offseason program and would compete for the starting position at training camp in 1990.

"I personally felt I was the best quarterback," DeBerg said. "But I've felt that before and not been the starter. You always feel threatened in the NFL—especially if your name is Steve DeBerg."

In four exhibition games last summer, DeBerg played less than four quarters. Elkins and Pelluer battled and DeBerg watched. And waited. And was rewarded. Neither of the two young quarterbacks was able to step forward and assert himself as the starter. So unlike the 49ers, Broncos, or Buccaneers, the Chiefs decided to stay with DeBerg.

"They had guys at those other places that supposedly had the talent to be as good as any quarterback in the league, if not the best," DeBerg said. "In all those situations, there was a lot of pressure from the ownership and the fans to get them on the field. But the situation here was different. This team was ready to win now, not necessarily looking to rebuild around a younger guy. So this team was looking to put the best quarterback on the field—not the next Joe Namath... the million-dollar quarterback."

It was DeBerg who played like the million-dollar quarterback in 1990. At 36 years of age, he had the best season of his career and guided the Chiefs to their best season in 19 years. DeBerg led a parade of unlikely heroes through the 1990 NFL season that also included two over-the-hill Pro Bowl veterans, a backup quarterback, and a should-have-been college senior.

The two knocks on DeBerg in his career were his interceptions and his losses. Heading into the 1990 season, only 28 quarterbacks in NFL history had thrown more career interceptions than DeBerg, and 44 active quarterbacks had better winning percentages as a starter. DeBerg had thrown 171 interceptions and had won only 30 of 101 starts.

But the interceptions stopped and the victories started for DeBerg in 1990. He threw only four interceptions in 444 passes for the second-best interception percentage (0.90) in NFL history. He threw 233 consecutive passes without a theft during one stretch, another second-best NFL record.

STREET AND SMITH'S PRO FOOTBALL

But DeBerg was doing more with his arm than just avoiding interceptions. He was manufacturing yards (3,444) and touchdowns (a career-high 23). His passing complemented the battering-ram tailback combination of Christian Okoye and Barry Word, who combined to rush for 1,820 yards, and the Chiefs stormed into the playoffs with an 11-5 record.

"I fooled myself, so I probably fooled some other people along the way," DeBerg said. "You're not supposed to play as well as I did when you're 36."

DeBerg started all 17 games for the Chiefs, including the final three with a cast on his left hand big enough to use as a sledge hammer. He broke his pinky on that hand in the 14th game of the season and had two pins inserted to stabilize the finger. Despite a hindrance the cast caused on snaps from center and hand-offs, DeBerg stayed in the lineup and steered the Chiefs to road victories at San Diego and Chicago to finish the regular season and a near-victory at Miami in the playoffs. Nick Lowery missed a 52-yard field goal on the final play and the Chiefs bowed out with a 17-16 loss.

DeBerg had the position taken away from him enough times in his career that he wasn't going to give it away on account of an injury. Not last season. He had waited too long for a year like that.

"I was always on the other side of the fence in my career," DeBerg said. "I'd be the one saying, 'Gee, if I had Terry Bradshaw's receivers... or this guy's offensive line... or that guy's running game...' It was always wishful thinking on my part. Finally I had an opportunity to be associated with that kind of talent. The finger wasn't a big deal. I was playing my best football and so was the team. It was a special year for me. I played better after my finger was broken. They're talking about breaking it again before this season starts."

JAMES LOFTON

James Lofton was everything statistically in his career that DeBerg was not. He went to training camp with the Los Angeles Raiders in 1989 as the No. 8 all-time receiver in NFL history. But it would be his final training camp with the Raiders.

The Raiders tried rotating Lofton, Mervyn Fernandez, Willie Gault, and Tim Brown in 1988 and it detracted from everyone's play. They finished 7-9 in the standings and 17th in the league in passing. The Raiders decided someone had to go in 1989—and that someone would be the old guy. So at 33, James Lofton was waived out of the league.

Nick Nicolau had been the Raiders' receiver coach in 1988 but moved to the Buffalo Bills in the same capacity in 1989. "We had tremendous talent at the Raiders [at receiver]," Nicolau said. "When I came to Buffalo, the only guy who even resembled that kind of talent was Andre Reed. So I knew if I was going to keep my job here, I had better get some better receivers. So when James got cut from the Raiders, all I knew was that he was better than what we had here. So I told [the Bills] they ought to take a look at him."

Three weeks into the regular season, the Bills did. They brought him in for a workout along with younger wideouts Lew Barnes and Kitrick Taylor. Lofton ran a sub-4.5 40 that day

in cold and damp conditions—a sprint that won him a spot on the Bills.

"At that point we were just looking for some experienced depth," Bills' coach Marv Levy said. "We wanted James to help get us through the season. If we had another injury or put him in on third down, he'd be an experienced, battle-tested guy. But I thought it would be a long shot for him to be with us beyond that season."

But Lofton surprised the Bills how quickly he picked up the offense and how productive he was in it. He finished the 1989 season as a starter, catching eight passes for 166 yards and three touchdowns. With a training camp under his belt in 1990, Lofton regained the form that took him to six Pro Bowls in the 1980s. His trademark throughout his career had been the big play, and Lofton continued to deliver it for the Bills. He had catches of 71, 60, 52, and 42 yards during the regular season and added grabs of 61, 44, and 41 yards in the playoffs as the Bills reached their first Super Bowl.

Otto Gruelle/Allsport USA



"Anytime somebody gets up into his mid-30s and makes plays like that, it's a surprise," Levy said. "But if you know James, no, it isn't a surprise. He's one of those lean guys who can run forever. He's not as old as his chronological age... not by a long shot."

Lofton caught 35 passes last season to move into sixth place on the all-time receiving list, with 642. Twenty-one catches this year would propel him to No. 4. But quality—not quantity—is what matters most to Lofton.

"I've never been a guy who caught a lot of little dump passes," Lofton said. "I'd like to remain the type of receiver that I've always been—a big-play threat. As long as I can do that, I'll play. I won't stick around just to catch little dinky passes."

EVERSON WALLS

Cornerback Everson Walls was looking for dump passes, dinky passes, any kind of passes. Even though he had been to four Pro Bowls for Dallas in the 1980s, the Cowboys left Walls unprotected in Plan B in 1990. But at 31 years of age and without speed as his crutch, Walls found a barren marketplace. With the April deadline approaching and still no offers, Walls took matters into his own hands. He sent letters to several NFL teams and phoned others looking for employment. But the teams were cool to him.

"Cool?" Walls said. "Some were downright frozen. I called Cleveland, Miami, the Raiders... San Francisco was very close, but they decided to sign Hanford Dixon. Washington wouldn't even consider me. I had played well in the past against them, but they gave me a flat no. That's one of the reasons I called the Giants—they knew my game pretty well."

Giants' coach Bill Parcells also had luck in the past with aging veterans. Ottis Anderson, eight years removed from his last Pro Bowl, rose up from the New York bench to give the

UNLIKELY HEROES

Giants 1,023 rushing yards and 14 touchdowns as an injury replacement for Joe Morris in 1989. Parcels also breathed life back into the career of linebacker Johnnie Cooks, a former No. 1 pick in 1982 whom the Giants signed off the street in 1988.

"I knew Parcels had taken in some older guys, so I figured it was a tailor-made situation for me," Walls said.

Parcells was willing to take in Walls—but not in the capacity Walls had hoped. "He told me he wanted me as insurance," Walls said. "I didn't say anything, but I was thinking, 'I don't want to be an insurance plan, but I'll get a foot in the door any way I can. I'll change his mind and his opinion of me with my performance.' All I needed was the opportunity."

The door swung open for Walls when Mark Collins held out last summer in a contract dispute. Walls took regular turns with the first team and intercepted three passes in the exhibition season. When Collins finally reported, it was incumbent right cornerback Perry Williams who went to the bench, not Walls.

His lack of speed was less obvious in the zone-coverage schemes of the Giants. In the nickel-passing situations, Walls even moved over to safety, where he could do some free-lancing. He proved to be the best ball hawk on the Giants, intercepting a team-leading six passes and returning one of them 28 yards for his first NFL touchdown. He added a seventh interception in the playoffs and the Giants went on to win their second Super Bowl.

"I take my hat off to him," Parcels said. "He had to make a lot of adjustments here. This

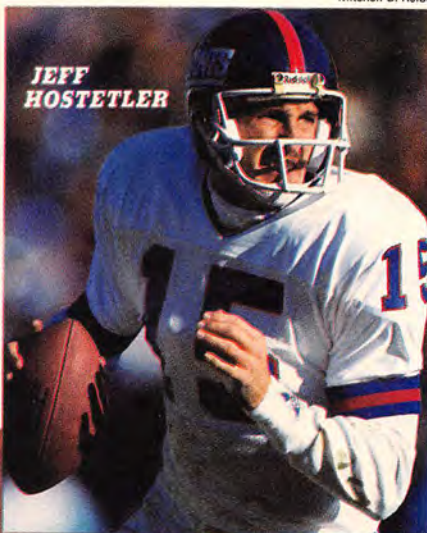
was a different system, a different style, a different operation than what he had been used to. He seemed to be happy all year and had some fun. I think he really enjoyed being here."

JEFF HOSTETLER

So did Jeff Hostetler, for a change. A third-round draft pick of the Giants in 1984, Hostetler didn't throw a single pass in his first four NFL seasons. He was stuck behind Phil Simms and Jeff Rutledge on the depth chart, and remained there until 1988. He started one game for the injured Simms in 1988 and two more in 1989. But in his first six seasons, he threw only 68 passes.

"I felt pretty good about him for a couple of years," Parcels said. "I told him that. But the opportunities weren't consistent enough to

Mitchell B. Reibel



prove to him that I did feel good about him. You can tell a guy, 'Don't worry, your opportunity is going to come.' But when it doesn't come, [he gets] frustrated."

That opportunity did come last December when Simms suffered a foot injury in the 14th game of the season. The Giants were sitting on an 11-3 record with a shot at the Super Bowl—if Hostetler could deliver at quarterback. Which he did. Hostetler steered the Giants to season-ending road victories over Phoenix and New England, then displayed his best skills in a three-game playoff run against Chicago, San Francisco, and Buffalo that claimed the Super Bowl championship. He completed 59 percent of his passes for 515 yards and three touchdowns with no interceptions. He became the first backup quarterback ever to win a Super Bowl.

"To his credit, he hung in there, and when the opportunity came along he did a great job," Parcels said. "There can't be anything more positive for him. He proved he can win the big game... several big games. He did what we thought he could do."

MARK CARRIER

Mark Carrier, on the other hand, did what the Chicago Bears *hoped* he could do. Carrier rolled off the same Southern Cal assembly line that produced safeties Dennis Thurman, Ronnie Lott, Joey Browner, and Tim McDonald. He had been an All-America as both a sophomore and junior and won the Jim Thorpe Award as the nation's top college defensive back in 1989. He could have returned to Southern Cal in 1990 and likely been the first repeat winner in the history of the Thorpe Award. But he chose to skip his senior year and apply for the NFL draft.

"I had some good years at USC," Carrier said. "We won three Pac-10 championships and went to three Rose Bowls. But I felt I had matured as much as I could at USC and there wasn't too much more for me to accomplish there. I was in line to graduate whether I stayed or left."

The Bears engineered their celebrated draft-day deal with Carrier, getting him to agree to a contract before they would agree to draft him, then claimed him with the sixth selection in the first round.

Carrier was there the entire offseason program and training camp—and it paid off. His play at free safety forced incumbent Shaun Gayle to move over to strong safety, which forced four-time Pro Bowl pick Dave Duerson out of a job and off the roster. Carrier didn't give the Bears any room for second-guessing as he intercepted 10 passes to become the first rookie to lead the NFL since Walls in 1981. He had two other interceptions that were nullified by penalties.

"We felt Mark was a tremendous football player or we wouldn't have drafted him where we did," Bears' defensive coordinator Vince Tobin said. "But for a guy to set the club record for interceptions—the Bears have been playing football a long time, you know—and be Rookie of the Year and go to the Pro Bowl, you'd have to be pleasantly surprised at just how well he did."

The same could be said for all of last season's unlikely heroes. □



Kirk Schlen



It's not whether you win or lose,
it's what you drink after the game that counts.

RATING THE DRAFT

by **FRANK LITSKY**
NEW YORK TIMES

The winners and losers: a team-by-team analysis

● The National Football League's 1991 draft was strange. To start with, the Plan B free-agency period from February 1 to April 1, where teams could fill in gaps before the draft, turned out to be dull, if not a dud. Only 139 of the 518 eligible players changed teams, the lowest number in the three-year history of Plan B. The only big splash came when the Los Angeles Raiders signed RB Roger Craig and FS Ronnie Lott, two old war-horses who were being eased out by the San Francisco 49ers.



Kirk Schieff

Russell Maryland Miami

Then came the draft in April. Many NFL club officials contended that there were few good players among the college seniors and the 33 underclassmen (22 were drafted) who had made themselves available. Then the player everyone expected to be chosen as No. 1, Raghib (Rocket) Ismail of Notre Dame, figured to be only a part-time receiver and kick returner. As it turned out, he wanted too much money for the taste of the New England Patriots, who had the first pick, so they traded the choice to the Dallas Cowboys. Ismail wanted too much for the Cowboys' taste, so they suggested he take the huge bankroll being waved in his face by the Toronto Argos of the Canadian Football League. He did.

In truth, like all drafts, this one had depth in some areas (for example, wide receivers and

the secondary) and little depth in others (notably tight end and defensive linemen). But there were quality players, and many of them were in the third through sixth rounds. Teams that drafted carefully and cleverly, like the Dallas Cowboys, should get help.

The Cowboys have been rebuilding well and almost made the playoffs last year. Their only apparent slip this time concerned Ismail, and they turned a loss into a gain. The Patriots, 1-15 last year, wanted Ismail. But when he turned down their offer of \$8.5 million, they traded his rights to the Cowboys for a first-round choice, a second-rounder, and three veterans—CB Ron Francis, MLB Eugene Lockhart, and OLB David Howard. The Cowboys raised the ante. Ismail again said no, and hours before the start of the NFL draft, he signed a four-year contract with Toronto. It guaranteed him \$14 million, with the possibility of reaching \$26 million. Just in case the Canadian deal did not work out, the Raiders took him on the fourth round of the NFL draft.

With Ismail unavailable, the Cowboys made DL Russell Maryland of Miami the first overall choice. Then they started trading down. They made four first-round deals, ending up with 10 picks in the first four rounds. As an example of their wheeling and dealing, for the last of their three first-round picks they collected a second-rounder, a third-rounder, two fourth-rounders, and a fifth-rounder.

With all that maneuvering, the Cowboys seemed to have a highly successful draft. So did the Atlanta Falcons, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, and the Patriots. The New Orleans Saints and the Indianapolis Colts probably had the worst drafts. The Phoenix Cardinals, the Los Angeles Rams, and the Raiders had the most puzzling.

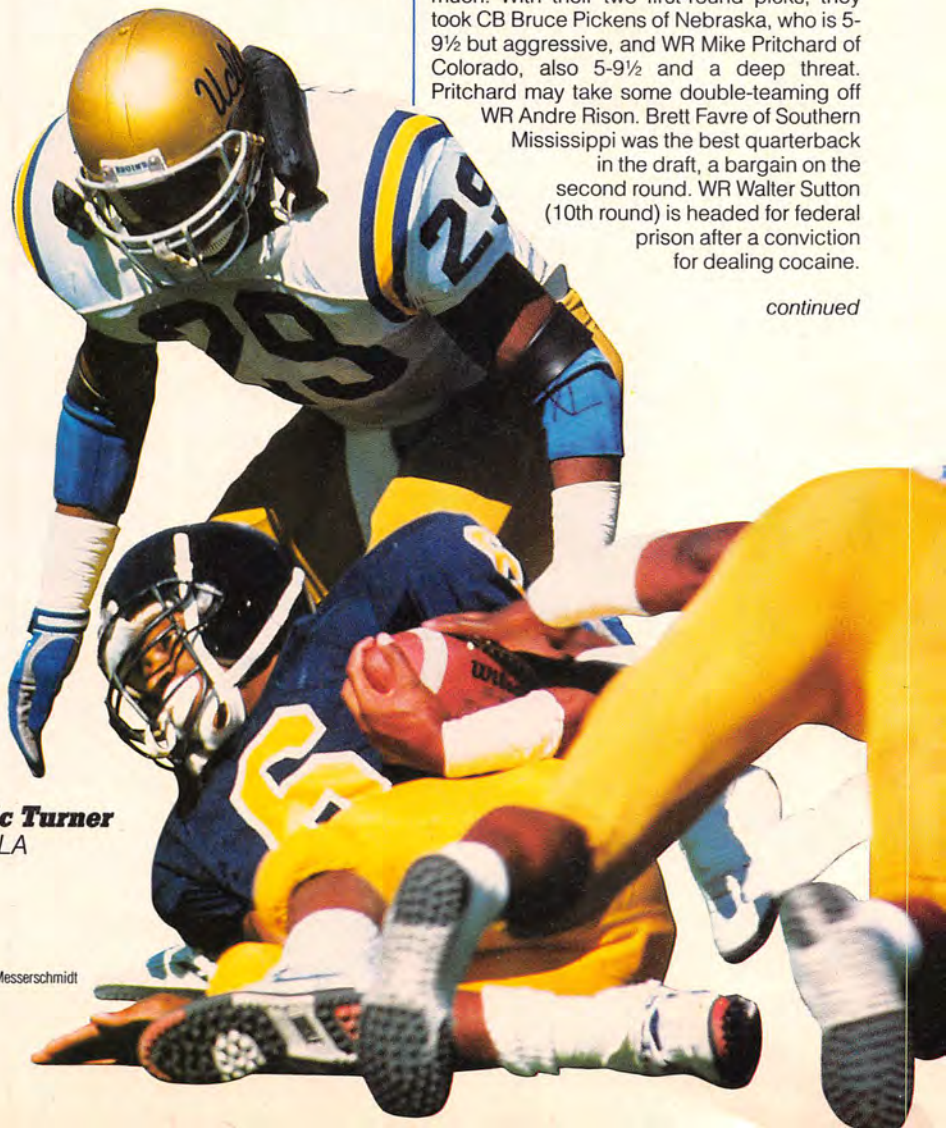
Here is a closer look at each team:


ATLANTA FALCONS A good job of collecting quality players. Before the draft, they traded with the Miami Dolphins to get CB Tim McKyer, who can do the job but talks too much. With their two first-round picks, they took CB Bruce Pickens of Nebraska, who is 5-9½ but aggressive, and WR Mike Pritchard of Colorado, also 5-9½ and a deep threat. Pritchard may take some double-teaming off WR Andre Rison. Brett Favre of Southern Mississippi was the best quarterback in the draft, a bargain on the second round. WR Walter Sutton (10th round) is headed for federal prison after a conviction for dealing cocaine.

continued

Eric Turner UCLA

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RATING THE DRAFT

BUFFALO BILLS Not too impressive, but this team is fairly solid to start with. It tried to toughen its defense with its first three picks. CB Henry Jones of Illinois is fast, covers well, and can play safety. He gave up only two touchdowns in 26 games, but as a first-rounder he may be a reach. DE Phil Hansen of North Dakota State (second round) needs weight and big-time experience. CB Darryl Wren of Pittsburg in Kansas (third round) can cover and has speed. Other draftees come from such small colleges as Clark, Florida A&M, Anderson, and Northern Michigan, so they may take time before they contribute.

CHICAGO BEARS Pretty good. The Bears got help for their aging offensive and defensive lines. OT Stan Thomas of Texas (first round) is 6-5, 302 pounds and quick and could be a Pro Bowler for 10 years. K-P Chris Gardocki of Clemson is big time, but a third-rounder? Only Mike Ditka might have taken two undersized Notre Damers: NT Chris Zorich (second round) and LB Mike Stonebreaker (ninth round). Both are smooth, combative, and barely six feet tall, but their dispositions fit the Bears. Wide receivers are still needed, and the Bears must wait for RB Darren Lewis of Texas A&M to complete drug rehabilitation.

CINCINNATI BENGALS Not bad, but not great. The defense needs help, and the first three picks were geared that way. OLB Alfred Williams of Colorado (first round) is slim at 6-6 and 237, but he combines power and quickness in a big pass rush, and the Bengals need that. Williams and James Francis, last year's No. 1, should make a formidable pair of outside linebackers. The Bengals then took two questionable defensive tackles: Lamar Rogers of Auburn (second round) and Bob Dahl of Notre Dame (third round). The later rounds brought a few potential sleepers.

CLEVELAND BROWNS Good potential. This was Bill Belichick's first draft as a head coach, and the former Giants' defensive coordinator took defensive players on five of his first seven picks. With the second choice overall, the Browns passed up CB Todd Lyght and took a big hitter, FS Eric Turner of UCLA. OG Ed King of Auburn (second round) was a junior and needs seasoning, which the Browns may not be able to afford. NT James Jones of Northern Iowa (third round) could contribute. The Browns got help, but not enough. They certainly looked around because they drafted players from such other small-time teams as Central Florida and Henderson State.

DALLAS COWBOYS An excellent job, especially if OG James Richards of California and OT Eric Williams (Central State of Ohio) can help plug a high-weight, low-production offensive line. DT Russell Maryland of Miami, the first choice overall, is 6-1 and 274 and quick. WR Alvin Harper of Tennessee is big and will help immediately. Dixon Edwards of Michigan State (second round) and Godfrey Myles of Florida (third round) will upgrade outside linebacker. The Cowboys took three players in the first round, one in the second, three in the third, and four in the fourth. What will they do with them all, trade them for more picks?

DENVER BRONCOS They collected many good bodies. Start with the quick Mike Croel of Nebraska (first round), the best outside linebacker in the draft. Add Reggie Johnson of Florida State (second round), a big blocker and perhaps the best tight end available, and Keith Traylor of Central State of Ohio (third round), mean and aggressive and the best inside linebacker in the draft. The Broncos traded for seldom-used RB Gaston Green of the Rams to back up Bobby Humphrey. But with John Elway and Gary Kubiak nursing sore backs, they did not reach for a quarterback until Shawn Moore of Virginia on the 11th round. He's not bad.

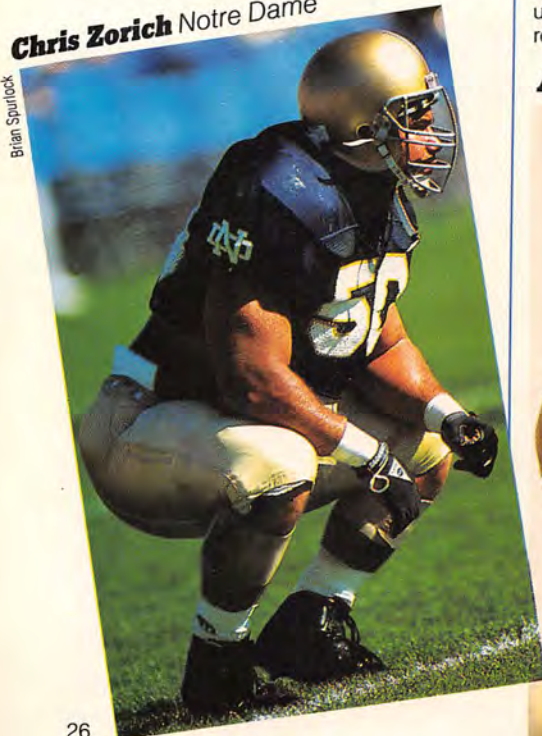
DETROIT LIONS Good work on the early rounds, not much after that. Last year, when the Lions played run-and-shoot exclusively, the wide receivers were all small. Now that a tight end will be used at times, they added two big and talented wide receivers in 6-4 Herman Moore of Virginia (first round) and 6-3 Reggie Barrett of Texas-El Paso (third round). That was a coup. They traded for a Cowboys' first-round pick, the hustling DT Kelvin Pritchett of Mississippi. So far, so good, but it tailed off. The defense still needs help.

GREEN BAY PACKERS Tough to figure. Maybe they know something we don't know. They traded down with the Eagles in the first round and got an extra No. 1 next year, which makes sense over the long run. Then they used their new No. 1 to take CB Vince Clark of Ohio State. Clark has 4.45 speed and can cover, but he probably would have been there on the second round. NT Esera Tuaolo of Oregon State (second round) is a power rusher with a questionable knee. RB Chuck Webb of Tennessee (third round) is a power runner with a questionable knee. The offensive line needed upgrading and didn't get it.

HOUSTON OILERS Fairly good. This is one team that got what it wanted: defensive backs. It took Mike Dumas of Indiana (small but a hitter) on the second round, Darryl Lewis of Arizona (short but quick) also on the second, Steve Jackson of Purdue on the third, and Marcus Robertson of Iowa State on the fourth. The aging offensive line will get help from king-sized C John Flannery of Syracuse (third round), 6-3½ and 304 and strong. The Oilers, who have plenty of running backs, wanted one workhorse and did not get him.

continued

Chris Zorich Notre Dame



Alvin Harper Tennessee



Mike Croel Nebraska





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RATING THE DRAFT

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS Bad, bad. The first-round pick went to the Falcons last year as part of the Jeff George package. The second-rounder brought DE Shane Curry of Miami, a quick, 253-pound pass rusher who may be too small at defensive end and too slow at outside linebacker. At 6-6½ and 303, OT Mark Vander Poel of Colorado (fourth round) is a good drive blocker but inexperienced. Some interesting choices in later rounds, including tight ends and offensive linemen, but little immediate help for a team that can use a lot of it.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS Fair, but they never did get the quarterback they wanted and badly need. Maybe they will get one in a trade for veteran FB Christian Okoye, although they have never indicated that he is available. With Okoye and Barry Word, their running was solid, so why did they take Harvey Williams of Louisiana State, another hard runner, on the first round unless they plan to trade Okoye? They grabbed OT Joe Valerio of Pennsylvania in the second round, an unusual distinction for an Ivy Leaguer. WR Tim Barnett of Jackson State (third round) should be useful.

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS Tough to figure because of so many gambles, which is par for Al Davis's team. The Raiders started in the first round with QB Todd Marinovich of Southern California, a left-handed sophomore who had problems with his college coaches and a run-in with cocaine. They traded up in the second round for RB Nick Bell of Iowa, tough and quick at 252 pounds but slowed by knee troubles. They took Raghib (Rocket) Ismail of Notre Dame on the fourth round, hoping he'd abandon his Canadian riches for the NFL.

Raghib Ismail Notre Dame



Tim DeFrisco / Allsport USA

LOS ANGELES RAMS Puzzling and probably unfruitful. CB Todd Lyght of Notre Dame was a steal with the fifth pick (first round). CB Robert Bailey of Miami (fourth round) should help, too. OLB Roman Phifer of UCLA (second round) is quick but stringy, and even his big performances in all-star games should not have promoted him to the 31st choice overall. There were odd choices in later rounds, and no help for a creaking offensive line. Sure, they traded with Denver for veteran OT Gerald Perry, but plenty of off-the-field problems go along with him.

MIAMI DOLPHINS Could be a good draft. To start with, they traded CB Tim McKyer to the Falcons, ridding themselves of a showboat who did not fit into the Don Shula mold and picking up two draft choices in return. On the first round, they nabbed WR Randal Hill of Miami, a fearless blazer with 4.34 speed. With Mark Clayton and Mark Duper aging, Hill can eventually become Dan Marino's big receiver. RB Aaron Craver of Fresno State (third round) is a tough inside runner who could contribute on third down. The offensive line got help.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS How can you assess a draft for a team still paying for Herschel Walker? The first two draft choices went to Dallas as part of that controversial 1989 blockbuster trade. On the third round, the Vikings went for speed and promise with LB Carlos Jenkins of Michigan State (undersized but strong, with 4.59 speed) and WR Jake Reed of Grambling (big and inexperienced, with 4.44 speed). Reed has talent and could become a star. Walker has been wasted for two years, but if the Vikings finally use him as a one-back, he could make everyone forget the almost endless draft choices he cost.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS Good to excellent. With a 1-15 record last year, the Patriots needed all kinds of help. The rights-to-Rocket-Ismael trade with the Cowboys gave them three veteran players. With their first-round

Todd Lyght Notre Dame



Bob Rosato

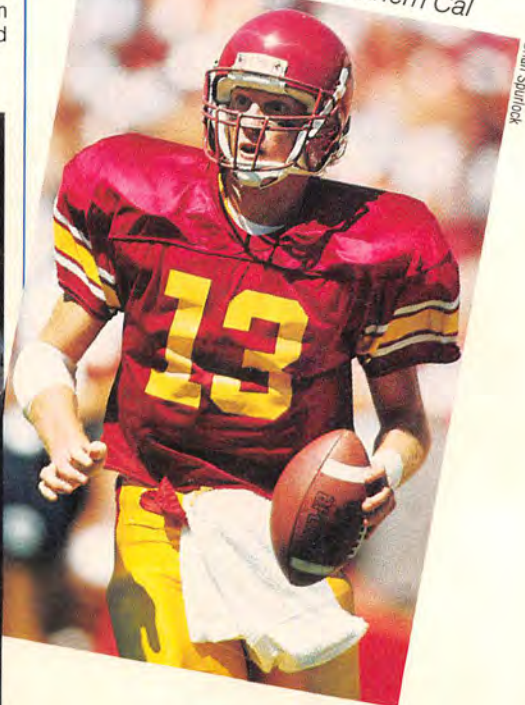
choice from the Rocket deal, they took OT Pat Harlow of Southern California, big (6-6, 288) and quick. Then they traded up with the Cowboys for another first-round pick and tapped RB Leonard Russell, a quick, brutal inside runner coveted by many teams. They have cut loose Steve Grogan and Marc Wilson and badly need a quarterback. They resisted the urge to grab Mark McGwire on the first round, but they did get the promising Scott Zolak of Maryland, 6-5 and raw, on the fourth round.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS Dreary. To begin with, the first- and third-round choices went to the Cowboys last year in the deal for Steve Walsh, who has not turned out to be the quarterback the Saints hoped he would be. WR Wesley Carroll of Miami (second round) was the only pick in the first four rounds. He may be fearless, but he weighs only 176 pounds and is not that fast. CB Reggie Jones of Memphis State (fifth round) has speed but not experience, yet he could be a sleeper. The offensive line got a little help. The defensive line, which needed help, got nothing.

NEW YORK GIANTS An efficient draft. Coach Bill Parcells of the Super Bowl champions likes big players, and he got a houseful. FB Jarrod Bunch of Michigan (first round) is a 248-pound blocker in the mold of Maurice Carthon, whom he will back up. OLB Kanavis McGhee of Colorado (second round) is 257 pounds and an impact player like Lawrence Taylor, whom he will back up. WR Ed McCaffrey of Stanford (third round) is 6-5 and a good possession receiver, something the Giants need with Mark Bavaro's season doubtful because of a bad knee. The quarterback of the future will be found at another time, but otherwise the Giants filled their needs.

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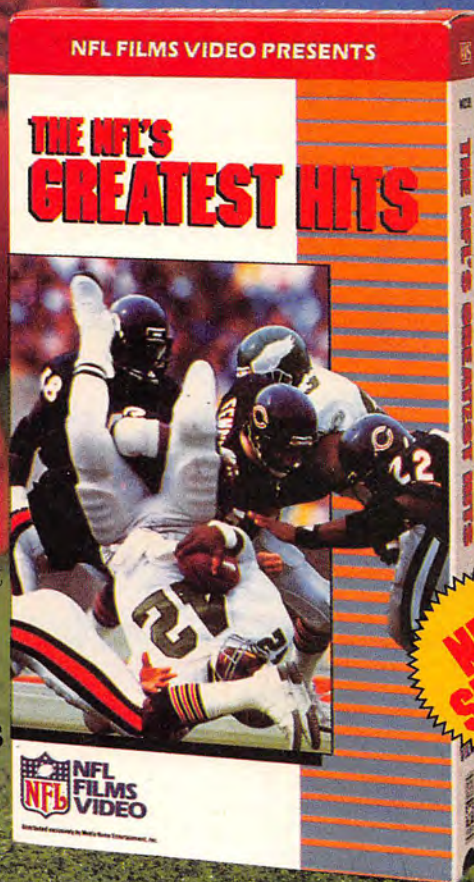
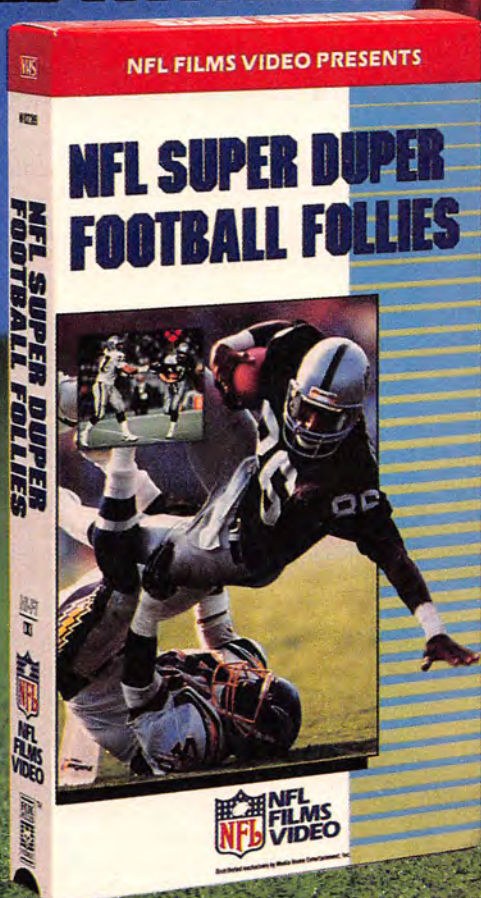
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RATING THE DRAFT

NEW YORK JETS Not bad. They had no first-round choice because they used it in the 1990 supplemental draft for WR Rob Moore, who had a good rookie season. Because Ken O'Brien has been erratic, they wanted a young quarterback, specifically Brett Favre. On the second round, they saw him go to the Falcons on the pick before theirs, so they then selected the strong-armed Browning Nagle of Louisville. OLB Morris Lewis of Georgia (third round) and DT Mark Gunn of Pittsburgh (fourth round) may have been reaches. The unsettled offensive line was beefed up before the draft.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES Fair to good. It took guts to trade up from the 19th to the eighth choice in the first round because the price included next year's first-round pick. But the Eagles did it to get OT Antone Davis of Tennessee, who is such a good blocker that he can get lazy. Parcells of the Giants thought it was a good move because the Eagles needed a tackle with that talent. S Jesse Campbell of North Carolina State (second round) is strong, quick, and a steal. QB Craig Erickson of Miami (fifth round) can be an able backup for Randall Cunningham if his knee holds up.

PHOENIX CARDINALS Either the smartest draft of all or maybe the dumbest because every early pick seems a project. Start with first-round DT Eric Swann (6-3½, 311), who never went to college and played semipro football in Massachusetts. Everyone loved him, but not on the first round. DL Mike Jones of North Carolina State (second round) is a good pass rusher but raw. Swann and Jones should lift an anemic pass rush, but probably later than sooner. CB Aeneas Williams of Southern University (third round) will probably not help for a while, either. The Cardinals spent their first five picks on defense, where immediate help was needed badly.

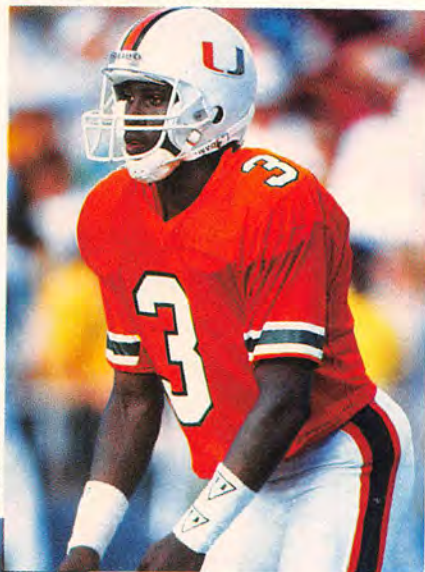
PITTSBURGH STEELERS Not bad. Everyone expected the Steelers to pick a wide receiver on the first round to take the heat off Louis Lipps. Instead, they grabbed DE/LB Huey Richardson of Florida, who is smart and can rush the passer. He will become an outside rusher and have to learn pass coverage. Wide receiver was addressed with two good choices: Jeff Graham of Ohio State (fluid and fearless) on the second round and Ernie Mills

of Florida (4.46 speed) on the third. There were good picks in the later rounds, too. This should be a helpful draft class.

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS Good. The Chargers made a sound defense better. Although CB Stanley Richard of Texas (first round) is athletic with 4.48 speed, he might have been available on the second round. SS Floyd Fields of Arizona State (fifth round) may start this season. DT George Thornton of Alabama (second round) is a 301-pounder who can stuff run- or pass-blockers. The offense will get help from 5-7 RB Eric Bienenmy of Colorado, although it has to figure how he and his speed can complement veteran Marion Butts. OG Eric Moten of Michigan State (second round) is a 307-pounder with promise, but perhaps not worth the 1992 first-round pick he cost.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS Not impressive, but the 49ers have too good a track record for anyone to give up on their draft. DT Ted Washington of Louisville (first round) is a slow 303-pounder who needs motivation. RB Ricky Watters of Notre Dame (second round) has good moves and durability, and if he can become consistent he can start immediately for the departed Roger Craig. Four of the first five picks were on defense, where Ronnie Lott and Matt Millen are gone and others may soon follow. DBs Merton Hanks (fifth round) and Louis Riddick (ninth round) offer help.

Randal Hill Miami



Al Messerschmidt

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS Not inspiring, but it could be a successful draft if QB Dan McGwire of San Diego State starts making contributions in a year or two. With Dave Krieg aging and Kelly Stouffer failing to win management's confidence, the Seahawks tapped the 6-8 McGwire as the first quarterback chosen in the first round. Although he lacks mobility, his arm is strong, and a repeal of the in-the-grasp rule will help him. The next two picks were wide receivers: Doug Thomas of Clemson (4.42 and small) in the second round and David Daniels of Penn State (4.49 and bigger) in the third.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS A real good job, starting with OT Charles McRae of Tennessee on the first round. He's 6-6½ and 290, an accomplished drive blocker who will be a book-end for OT Paul Gruber and could be a perennial all-pro. WR Lawrence Dawsey of Florida State (third round) can catch short or deep. Running help should come from Robert Wilson of Texas A&M (third round) and Terry Bagsby of East Texas State (fifth round), although Wilson's indifferent pre-draft workouts turned off some teams. Some of the lower-round choices should make the grade.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS Only fair. At least this draft was different because the Redskins, who usually trade away their first-round pick for veteran players, had one this time. They used it for Bobby Wilson of Michigan State, a blocky, persistent nose tackle who must learn to play defensive tackle in a 4-3. RB Ricky Ervins of Southern California (third round) is a quick 5-7, 200-pound tailback who was rated lower by many teams. He figures to become a third-down back. With only nine choices in all, three in lower rounds went for defensive backs to give Darrell Green some help. □

Dan McGwire San Diego State



Dave Black

Craig Erickson Miami



Al Messerschmidt

Herman Moore Virginia



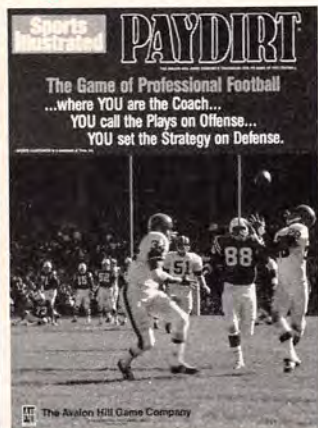
Doug Pensinger / Allsport USA

WHY 4 FOOTBALL GAMES?

To give YOU a choice! Here are 4 great football board games that have stood the test of time!



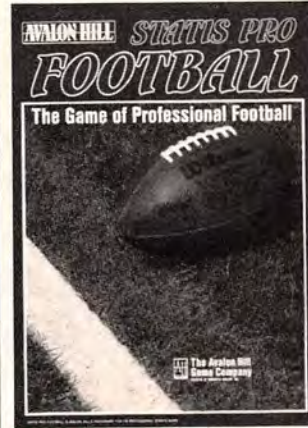
Would 30 years be a good test? That's how long **Football Strategy** has charmed table-top gamers. It's the first board game to emphasize defense as well as offense! Called by Sports Illustrated in 1961, "the best football game ever invented." The game of think and double-think! On defense you secretly select a defense you think will stop your opponent's next play. He, in turn, tries to outguess you by calling a play from among 20 on the matrix chart patterned after real pro plays. Each offense and defense selection is cross-indexed to obtain the gain or loss. An ad executive once said, "when you can get top-notch ad men to pass up expense account luncheons to play **Football Strategy**, you have a real attraction going for you." Another eulogized, "as ex-college players, we have been attracted by many good football games, but none have approached the realism and excitement of **Football Strategy**."



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Quarterback: Jeff Hostetler	
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Com 1-34	2: 7/10/11
Inc 35-46	3: 5/9/11
Int 47-48	4: 4/9/11
Short	5: 3/8/11
Com 1-24	6: 2/8/11
Inc 25-44	7: 1/7/11
Int 45-48	8: 0/7/11
Long	9: -1/6/11
Com 1-13	10: -1/6/11
Inc 14-41	11: -2/5/10
Int 42-48	12: -2/5/10
PASS RUSH	
Sack Runs	Com. Inc.
1-19 20-39	31-40 41-48

LET'S MAKE A DEAL

**Suggested
trade routes
for every team
to follow**

by LYLE SPENCER
THE NATIONAL SPORTS DAILY

● Picture this: It is late September in the Meadowlands and the natives are even more restless than usual. Super Bowl hero Jeff Hostetler, who earned the New York Giants' quarterback job in a spirited preseason duel with Phil Simms, is having trouble moving the offense early in the second quarter against the Cleveland Browns. On the sidelines, Simms tugs at his headphones as the volume of noise behind him at Giants Stadium rises to a heavy-metal pitch.

"We want Simms! We want Simms!"

They get Simms. Bill Parcells taps his veteran quarterback on the shoulder, and there goes No. 11 into the fray. Ah, but the rust shows. Simms, having taken so few snaps in practice, is out of sync. The offensive line, accustomed now to Hostetler's cadence, is jumping all over the place. When he does finally get a play off, Simms, too pumped for the occasion, wildly overthrows his receiver. As the offense continues to stall, Giants Stadium becomes a different kind of dog pound, the fans howling like mad.

"We want Hoss!" rises the new chant from the Meadowlands stands early in the fourth quarter. "We want Hoss!"

Parcells throws his arms skyward in equal parts anger and frustration. This was not at all what he had in mind when he came to training camp with the highest of expectations, convinced the Simms-Hostetler business could be settled to the benefit of everyone concerned, particularly the defending Super Bowl champions.

How wrong he was. There is a way, of course, for this grim scenario to be avoided. One or the other, Simms or Hostetler, can — and should — be dealt.

Both are now established as winners at the most important position on the football field, and even the most conservative of general managers recognize the value in that. But there is also such a thing as too much wealth, and this is one of those rare cases. The Giants need to remove all the confusion and anoint one leader of the kingdom.

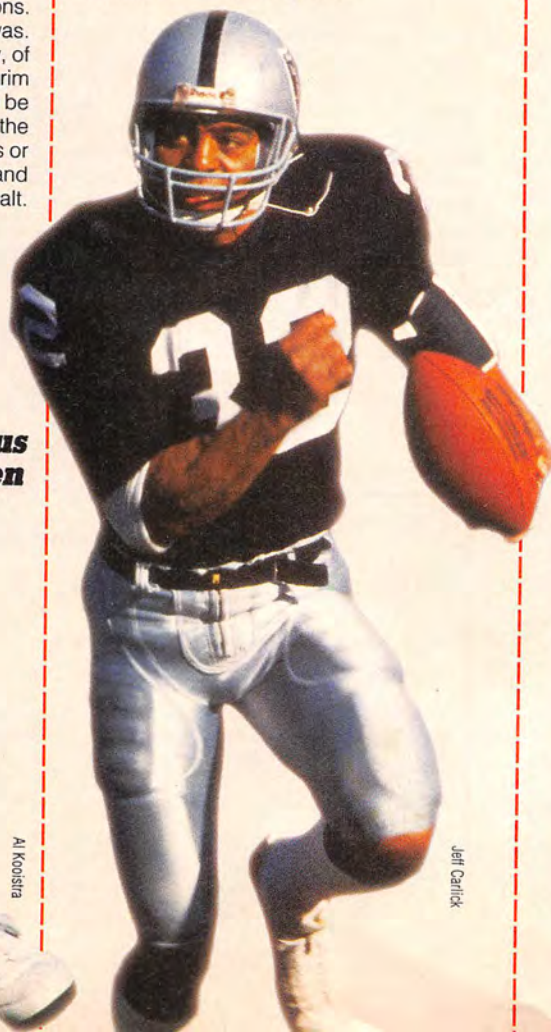
Difficult as it is from an emotional standpoint, Giants' general manager George Young reluctantly takes the initiative. Discreetly he shops his two quarterbacks. He finds, not suprisingly, that there is more interest in the younger man, Hostetler. He also discovers that Simms is not without suitors. There are certain teams that rightfully and intelligently reason that he is the difference between a good season and a great one.

Young listens to what good friend Bobby Beathard, San Diego's astute GM, has to say, and it doesn't take long for them to agree that this is it, the deal that solves everything. They get together and announce the blockbuster: Simms to the Chargers in exchange for third-year quarterback Billy Joe Tolliver.

Having taken the first step, maybe Young and Beathard inspire their peers to go shopping with abandon. There was a time, long ago, when the NFL actually did trade players with a passionate sense of purpose similar to that of their brothers in baseball. Two of the biggest deals ever, in any sport, involved the always adventurous Los Angeles Rams. In 1952, they dealt a whole platoon, 11 players, to Dallas for linebacker/place-kicker Les Richter. They just don't make deals — or linebacker/kickers — like that anymore.



Phil Simms



Marcus Allen

That whopper didn't produce any championships, but the Rams, undaunted, came back seven years later with another swap of the highest magnitude. This time they sent nine bodies to the St. Louis Cardinals in exchange for the great Ollie Matson. Unfortunately, Ollie had left most of his glory behind and had no offensive line to preserve him in L.A. But the Rams were Hollywood and that meant glamour names. At least nobody could accuse them of being afraid to roll the dice.

The Herschel Walker and Eric Dickerson deals of recent history demonstrate that the NFL movers and shakers still will maneuver on occasion, but too often for the hardcore fan such trades involve faceless draft choices. There's no fun in that. We're here to provide name-for-name value. The idea is to improve each club in the federation while delivering players into environments more conducive to happy, productive times.

*Giants QB Phil Simms to San Diego
for QB Billy Joe Tolliver*

Simms isn't ready to caddy for anybody, even though a case can be made that coming out of the New York bullpen would prolong his career by several years. In theory that's fine, but this is a man who burns to play football—now, every down. A significant factor in this swap from Simms's perspective is the opportunity to play on real grass. It was the Giants Stadium carpet that tripped him up against Buffalo last December and opened the door for the unheralded Hostetler to become a national celebrity.

The Chargers are in a position to part with Tolliver, a kid with a big arm. They have another young quarterback in John Friesz to groom in support of Simms, who can take them places they haven't been in a long time. Tolliver's appeal to the Giants is his youth and physical prowess. Plus, it clears up the Hoss-Simms controversy from Day 1.

*Indianapolis RB Eric Dickerson to the
L.A. Rams for RB Cleveland Gary
and S Anthony Newman
Dickerson to San Francisco for LB
Bill Romanowski and DE Dennis Brown
Romanowski to the L.A. Raiders
for RB Marcus Allen*

Crazy, you say? First, let's sort out this four-way foray into creative planning.

Dickerson lands in San Francisco, instantly giving Joe Montana a running game he hasn't had since Roger Craig started going into the shop for repairs. Dickerson, who has had some big games at Candlestick, loves the opportunity to show up his old friends in L.A. on a regular basis. Having discarded the salaries of Craig and Ronnie Lott, San Francisco can take on Dickerson's dollars because it makes so much sense.

The Colts, having built their team around quarterback Jeff George, no longer need Dickerson's presence—or contract. Gary gives them young legs and, who knows, he might learn to hold onto the football in a new environment. Newman certainly can't hurt the Indianapolis secondary.

Allen rejoins his USC comrade John Robinson, who can't conceal his pleasure in finally hooking up with the Trojan horse. Allen has enough left to live up the Rams' running game and provide blocking support for Jim Everett, who loves to pitch to Allen coming out of the backfield. The Rams also get a defensive lineman in Brown, who becomes available with the 49ers having drafted 300-pound Ted Washington No. 1 in April.

The Raiders, who suddenly have an overabundance of runners, have one significant area of need defensively, and that is at linebacker. The capable Romanowski moves right in and offers immediate help.

*New York Jets WR Al Toon to Chicago for
LB Ron Cox, LB Jim Morrissey,
and DT William Perry*

Toon is a potential Hall of Fame receiver whose arrival is cause for wild celebration in the Windy City. How can the Jets, then, afford to part with him? Because this is the one place where they're well-fortified. Rob Moore is ready to emerge as a No. 1 receiver, with support from Terance Mathis, Chris Burkett, JoJo Townsell, and Dale Dawkins.

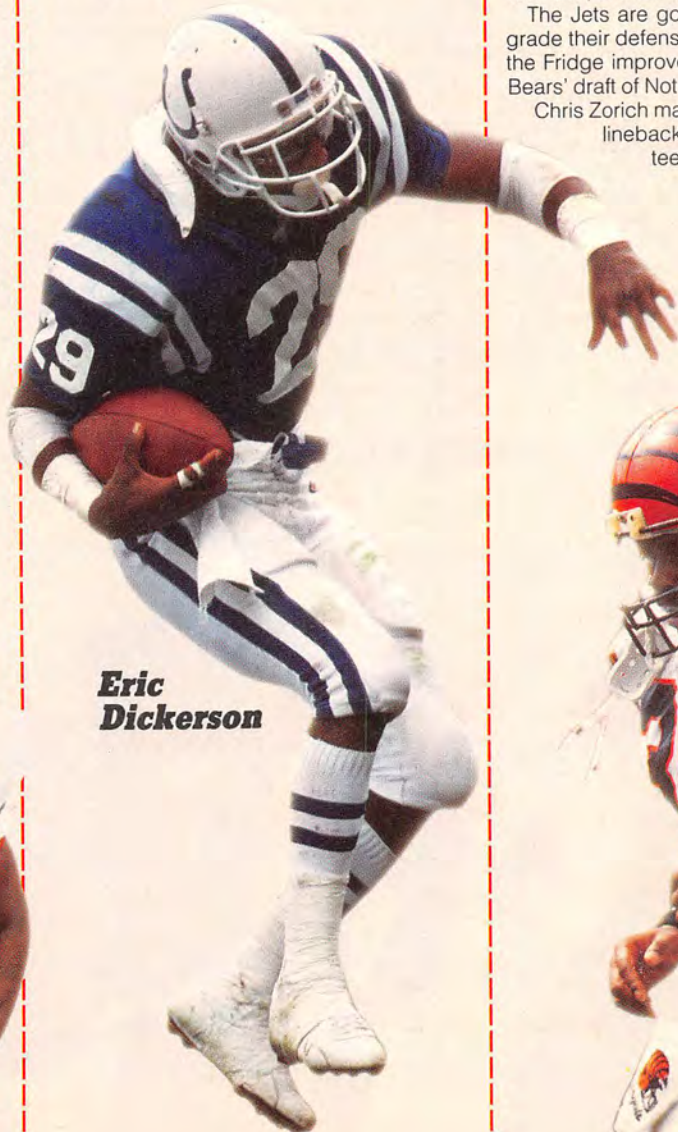
The Jets are going nowhere until they upgrade their defense, and Cox, Morrissey, and the Fridge improve them by 20 percent. The Bears' draft of Notre Dame hometown favorite Chris Zorich makes Perry expendable, and linebackers Cox and Morrissey add teeth to the Jets' woeful corps.

continued

Christian Okoye



Eric Dickerson



Ickey Woods



LET'S MAKE A DEAL

Detroit QB Andre Ware to Houston for QB Cody Carlson and DT Sean Jones

Dealing Ware clarifies everything, establishing Rodney Peete as the man in the Lions' run-and-shoot. Carlson is more emotionally equipped to the backup role than Ware, and Jones bolsters a defensive line that needs assistance as coach Wayne Fontes switches to a four-man front.

Warren Moon isn't exactly ready to retire, but the Oilers wonder how many seasons he has left and they jump at the chance to groom Ware. Andre is happy to return to Houston and has no complaint with studying at the feet of a man he admires, Moon, until the job becomes his on a full-time basis.

Kansas City FB Christian Okoye to Green Bay for RB Darrell Thompson

The Chiefs give the ball to Barry Word and set Okoye free to go to the frozen tundra of Green Bay and pack a heavy inside load for the Packers. Thompson, last year's No. 1 pick, adds versatility to the K.C. attack.

Tampa Bay RB Reggie Cobb to Atlanta for DT Tony Casillas

Gary Anderson is no part-timer! He's a full-time runner, which makes Cobb available for the right price. Casillas adds depth to the Buccaneers' defensive interior. The Falcons can use Cobb in support of second-year back Steve Broussard.

Washington OT Joe Jacoby to Buffalo for LB Ray Bentley

An exchange of veterans who fill needs. Jacoby is still wide and smart enough to afford more protection for Jim Kelly, who was un-

beaten last season in games in which he wasn't sacked. The Bills have an embarrassment of linebacking riches and can part with Bentley, who improves the Redskins inside with his toughness.

Miami WR Mark Duper to Minnesota for CB Carl Mims

Duper becomes expendable with the arrival of No. 1 pick Randal Hill, who breaks up the Marks Brothers by hooking up with Mark Clayton. Mims adds depth at a position that became thin with the shipment of the outspoken Tim McKyer to Atlanta.

Minnesota can afford to sacrifice Mims in order to acquire a wideout threat to relieve some pressure from Anthony Carter. One thing Duper can still do is get deep.

New England WR Irving Fryar to Philadelphia for WR Mike Bellamy and WR Calvin Williams

Fryar obviously needs a change as much as the Patriots need to divorce themselves from the gifted but spaced-out wideout. The Eagles can use a receiver with his skills, and they're not afraid to take on an outlaw type if he can help them win a championship—which Fryar can.

Williams had some fine moments in his rookie season with Randall Cunningham, and Bellamy, another second-year man, finds an opportunity to strut his stuff in New England.

Cleveland WR Webster Slaughter to Seattle for OT Andy Heck

A heck of a deal for both sides. Slaughter brings balance and firepower to the Seahawks' attack, freeing the congestion from Brian Blades, who was smothered all year. Dave Krieg and the new kid in town, Dan McGwire, suddenly have a serious passing game to develop.

Heck is a terrific blocker, but this is one area where Seattle has some depth, and you have to give quality to get it back. The Browns are

crying for able bodies to protect Bernie Kosar, a treasure who could be destined for early retirement if he doesn't stop biting the turf with such regularity. Bernie hates to lose the combative Slaughter, but the Browns still have Reggie Langhorne, Lawyer Tillman, and Brian Brennan—and Heck helps them get open.

Dallas WR Michael Irvin to Cincinnati for RB Ickey Woods

The selection of Tennessee wideout Alvin Harper with their second No. 1 pick enables the Cowboys to move Irvin for Woods, who takes his shuffle and other goods to Irving in support of emerging star Emmitt Smith.

The Bengals are still in good hands at running back with James Brooks, Harold Green, and Eric Ball, and Irvin is the deep threat Boomer Esiason craves.

New Orleans QB Bobby Hebert to Denver for WR Michael Young and a No. 1 pick

The Broncos need some support for John Elway, and Hebert is just the ticket. The Saints pick up a quality possession receiver in Young and a No. 1 Denver feels it can sacrifice to cover itself at the most important position on the field.

Pittsburgh DE Aaron Jones to Phoenix for OT Luis Sharpe

Jones, who could do some great things, joins rookie Eric Swann in a restructured Cardinal defensive front, relieving some of the pressure from the raw newcomer to the NFL.

The Steelers can't pass on the veteran Sharpe, who affords quarterback Bubby Brister better protection. □

William Perry

Dave Black

43

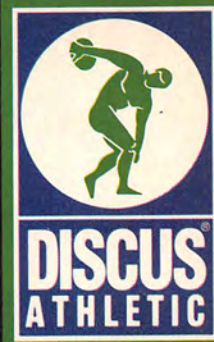
Jeff Carlick

Billy Joe Tolliver

Cleveland Gary

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50 WAYS TO IMPROVE THE NFL

by **GLEN MACNOW**
PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Modest proposals for the good of the game

Remember the great football that we all grew up with? The old National Football League that featured steel-curtain defenses and potent running attacks and actual weather conditions? The league with spontaneity and personality and guys named Crazylegs and Big Daddy?

What happened? We all went to sleep one night, and woke up to find that the NFL had turned into a colorless, high-tech corporation. The lords of football took the sport we loved and proceeded to turn it into IBM. Today, the games are too long, the coaches too predictable, the prices too high, and the rules too complex. Can you imagine the shade of purple Vince Lombardi would turn if he had to wait for a play to be reviewed in the booth?

The good part is that it wouldn't take much to restore the NFL to its former greatness—just some nominal tinkering and a few minor alterations. Hoping that Paul Tagliabue is paying attention, we'll propose 50 changes:

1 Upon further review, dump the instant replay. In theory, this wasn't a bad idea. In reality, it just doesn't work. The men in the glass booth make nearly as many mistakes as the guys on the field, and they have turned the game officials into a gaggle of tentative, indecisive cowards. Plus, replay can sl-o-o-o-w down the game.

"Nowadays," said retired coaching great Sid Gillman, "the referee walks to the sideline, gets in a huddle, walks back, and upstairs they're looking at the play from 14 different angles. When that happens it drives me crazy. I'm sure the average fan is the same way."

Right you are, Sid. And beyond all that there is a philosophical issue. The players, coaches, and owners are not expected to be perfect. Why do we demand it of referees? The controversial call is a part of the game's lore and history. Don't seek to replace it with interminable delays.

2 Rip down the domes. Because football was made to be played in mud and snow and swirling wind. Would Bart Starr's one-yard plunge behind Jerry Kramer to win the 1967 NFL championship game have been half as memorable if it weren't 13-below zero that day in Green Bay?

3 Start night games no later than 8 PM EST. This probably won't go over big on the West Coast, but for the security of the nation, it's essential. Anyone who has been in Washington, D.C. the morning after the Redskins play on Monday night has seen the results: Thou-

sands of yawning, bleary-eyed national security advisers stumbling through the Capitol after staying up past 1 AM to catch the entire commercial-ridden broadcast. If America's enemies ever wanted to launch an attack, their best bet would be Tuesday mornings during football season.

4 Bring back the two-point conversion. As near as we can understand, the point-after option was tossed away when the AFL and NFL merged about 20 years ago because spineless coaches didn't want to be forced into making tough decisions near the end of games. But allowing the choice to go for two would dramatically increase a team's chances of staging a late-game comeback, would reduce the number of overtimes, and would test the guts of the guys in the headsets. Doesn't seem all that radical, either.

Let's put it another way: Have you ever seen an exciting PAT kick in the pro game? Now, have you ever seen a boring two-point try in college football?

5 Enact a Gatorade ban. We're not suggesting players can't drink the stuff between possessions. But this showering of the coach has become both trite and out of hand. Does anyone really believe Marv Levy wanted to celebrate the Bills' AFC title victory by having five gallons of cold, sticky stuff poured over his head? In Buffalo? In January?

6 Crack down on steroids. As much as the NFL insists it is serious about these heinous drugs, the linemen will admit that they are still widely used. Steroids not only destroy the health of the players using them, they also threaten everyone else on the field. You needn't be a scientist to figure out the potential damage when a 200-pound running back collides full-speed with a 300-pound, pumped-up, anabolic-injected lineman. The game has become suicide for smaller players.

7 Set the schedule to create division drama. Last year, the Giants and Redskins finished their two-game series before Halloween. And on the final week of the season, the Giants

ILLUSTRATED BY STEVE HAEFFLE



Start Night Games Earlier

traveled to New England while the Redskins hosted Buffalo. What sense does this make? The last game of the year should always match division rivals—as baseball does—with the hope that more will be at stake in the contest than whether Mark Bavaro finishes the season uninjured.

8 Bring back the cheap seats. To take a family of four to an NFL game costs—after parking and refreshments—about the same as your basic three-bedroom suburban ranch home. We agree that the league needs to turn a profit, but not at the expense of making its product inaccessible to the average guy. Our recommendation: Set aside 10,000 or so end-zone nose-bleeders each game and sell them for no more than \$10. Because if a father can't afford to take his 10-year-old to a game, where will the league get its future fans?

9 Make the extra point less of an automatic by requiring the kicker to put it between the uprights from 30 yards away.

10 Reward success by awarding playoff teams a bigger piece of the television cash pie. One of the mistakes the NFL makes is not giving clubs a financial incentive to win. With all the parties and travel costs tossed in, a team that goes to a Super Bowl actually stands to earn less than a last-place patsy.

We suggest that rather than award each franchise 1/28th (3.6 percent) of the TV money, the NFL give more to teams as they advance in the playoffs. The team that wins the Super Bowl should get eight percent of the total take (Just what Eddie DeBartolo Jr. needs—more money!), and the team that loses the Super Bowl should get six percent. Overall, this would provide motivation for the perennial losers to improve their lot, which would make for a more competitive league.

11 Stop penalizing celebrations—by fans or players. Not only do NFL fans get exploited by

ticket prices, they also get spanked by the refs for rooting too loudly. What's next, sloppy fans forced to sweep out the stadium after the game? As far as player hot-dogging, we don't condone taunting, but what's the harm in a little end-zone dice-roll, high-five, or spike? If the guys want to choreograph a break dance, let 'em.

12 Shrink the preseason. Now we've got four exhibitions and 16 regular-season games. That means 20 percent of the season is given over to meaningless contests in which fans pay retail prices to watch NFL hopefuls stumble about while the regulars sit on the bench to avoid injury. Not fair to ticket holders. Let's shift to a two-game practice season followed by 18 real games.

13 Turn the WLAF into a true minor league. The NFL Pooh-Bahs may not yet grasp it, but they have a golden opportunity to create a cheap breeding ground for talent and help clean up sports at the same time.

The league's current farm system (namely Notre Dame, University of Miami, Alabama, et al) faces threats from academic-minded university presidents who are slowly concluding that their programs need a serious scrubbing. As this happens—and we applaud the clean-up—it seems inevitable that scholarships will be reduced, academic standards will be raised, and outlaw coaches will be roused. So where does that leave the player who can run through a wall but can't fake his way through English 101?

Why not the WLAF? There's nothing inherently corrupt with a young man bypassing college to pursue a career, even one in football. Better that some of these physical specimens are smacking tackling dummies in Barcelona than taking away someone else's scholarship. Baseball's minor-league system goes back

100 years and so far, at least, everyone seems to have survived.

14 Put a team back in Baltimore. Put another team in Oakland. Immediately. And name them the Colts and the Raiders. Just because it's fair.

15 Tear up the turf. Given the reams of statistical proof and anecdotal reports, it is criminal that owners continue to subject players to the knee-shattering dangers of artificial grass. Ignoring the evidence just lends further support to the argument that owners view the players as nothing more than replaceable pieces of equipment.

Safety aside, turf renders the sport synthetically sterile by removing things like dirt and real grass stains. Football players should be caked in the elements by the end of a game. They shouldn't look like they just returned from the dry cleaner.

16 Encourage the rebirth of the running game. There's nothing wrong with the modern aerial attacks of Moon, Montana, and Majkowski, but when 300-yard passing games become as commonplace as those "John 3:16" signs, it gets tiresome. Whatever happened to Jimmy Brown and Leroy Kelly? Or the Packer sweep? A good running game can be as exciting as a good passing game. Best way to bring it back: Legalize the bump-and-run defense. This would muffle the run-and-shoot rage and make quarterbacks consider handing off the ball again.

17 Pull down the nets. Let the ball fly into the stands after a field goal or extra point, and let the fans keep the souvenir—just as in baseball. Certainly the NFL can afford this gesture.

18 Realign the conferences. Phoenix in the East? Atlanta in the West? Even an eight-year-old knows his geography better than the NFL. Imagine an East Coast Division comprising the Patriots, both New York clubs, the Eagles, the new Baltimore Colts, and the Redskins. We could call it the Amtrak Division.

19 Give the players true free agency. Sure, Buddy Ryan may become ambassador to the United Nations before this ever happens, but it still makes a lot of sense. Remember, despite dire warnings 15 years ago, free agency never destroyed the competitive balance in baseball—in fact, it led to more sharing of the power. And face it, Plan B is nothing more than a charade to please the federal court and allow clubs to discard their special-teams' flotsam each year. What sense does it make for a talented quarterback like Steve Young to spend his career rotting away on the San Francisco bench? With free agency, he'd get a chance to start somewhere.

20 Scrap the coin-flip before each game. In baseball, the home team always bats last. In football, the home team should always kick off and choose which goal to defend.

21 Go back to the pre-1990 playoff system. For 12 years the NFL had sports' best post-season format: All division winners plus two wild cards per conference were asked to the

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50 WAYS TO IMPROVE THE NFL



Sack the "In the Grasp" Rule

party. But bowing to TV pressure, the league sent out two more invitations last season. Cheapening the playoffs is a bad idea because it makes the NFL resemble the NBA or NHL, whose playoffs are clogged with sub-.500 pretenders.

22 Only hire kickers who play another position. Wasn't it Alex Karras who first railed against the mosquitoes who flit onto the field for a millisecond to "k-e-e-k a touchdown?" Anyone who recalls Garo Yepremian's Super Bowl passing attempt knows that these guys are non-athletes. Let's bring back the Lou Groza types who actually get their uniforms dirty before trying a field goal.

23 Establish a committee on nicknames. Once, the NFL was populated by characters with monickers like Night Train, Broadway Joe, and the Stork. What have we got now—Joe Cool? Boomer? Give us a break. It doesn't seem fair that expressive players like Jerry Rice and Bruce Smith will go their entire careers without picking up an alias. Something must be done.

24 Move to interconference seeding for the Super Bowl. Once upon a time, the AFC vs. NFC rivalry meant something. Of course in those days Joe Namath was the only guy wearing white shoes. Now, with more expansion on the table and the NFL poised to realign teams between the conferences, it seems a good time to let the format die a natural death.

Why? Because the AFC has lost nine of the past 10 Super Bowls, sometimes fielding a team that probably wouldn't survive the first round of the NFC playoffs. Enough is enough.

Our suggestion is to rank all the playoff teams by record, and then have the best play the worst, the second-best play the second-worst, and so on. If both Super Bowl teams came from the same conference, so be it. At least we would be spared the agony of watching the Denver Broncos in late January.

25 Reconsider how statistical leaders are ordered. Why are rushers ranked by yards while receivers are ranked by number of catches? Why is a player who runs for 1,000 yards on 300 carries ranked ahead of another who rushes for 950 yards on 180 carries? Doesn't make sense to us.

26 Drop the midseason bye. League executives insist this new wrinkle added last season was designed to help players get over injuries. Ha! This has nothing to do with players and everything to do with squeezing a better contract from the TV networks. The staggered weeks off proved to be an unfair competitive advantage for some clubs last season. And it left unimaginative fans feeling an uncomfortable void on certain Sundays. Some actually were forced to spend time with their families.

27 Banish those Darth Vader plastic shields that players wear over their face masks. One problem with the NFL is that most players are just numbers, rather than faces whom you'd recognize on the street. Let's not cover up any more than is necessary.

28 Play the Pro Bowl on the day before the Super Bowl. Of all the major sports, football has the least-watchable all-star game. It is played after the season is over, with many of the best players skipping out and the rest playing at half-speed. One way to infuse excitement into the game is to make it part of the Super Bowl weekend, playing it on the same site 24 hours before the championship. The Pro Bowl would thus get more coverage (the press is already there), attract more marquee players (who would welcome the chance to be part of a Super Bowl weekend), and better fit into the flow of the season. The only negative is that players from the Super Bowl teams would not be in the game, but perhaps they could stand on the sidelines holding ESPN's microphones.

29 No more Bud Bowl.

30 Sack the "in the grasp" rule. A little history: This regulation was adopted in 1979 to protect quarterbacks from being used as shot-puts by muscle-bound defensive linemen. Nice theory, but it hasn't worked. Quarterbacks are injured at a greater rate than ever, while the in-the-grasp rule just makes for dull football. How many times in recent years have we seen an unfolding play prematurely blown dead because Reggie White or Lawrence Taylor brushed a retreating quarterback on the shoestrings? Far too many, we say. Further, nobody in the sport likes this rule—not the coaches, not the offensive linemen, not even the quarterbacks it is designed to protect. Scramblers like John Elway and Randall Cunningham are penalized for their elusiveness. Referees are forced to make more judgment calls.

So what's the deal here? Are we playing tackle football or two-hand touch? If it's tackle, quarterbacks must be considered players, too. Find another way to protect them.

31 Forbid any player or coach from uttering nonsensical clichés. A hefty fine to anyone who speaks of gut checks, character, containment, or intensity. A coach who begs off from answering a question "until I see the game films" should be forced to spend 24 hours in a broom closet listening to Dan Dierdorf and Frank Gifford.

32 Impose labor peace. Easier said than done, we admit, but at least give it an earnest effort. For starters, pick new people to represent both sides. Owners must replace the Cro-Magnons whose main intent is busting the union and returning sports to the days of indentured servitude. And players must toss out the incompetents who see every issue as a moral battle pitting the oppressed masses against the evil bosses. Next, realize that there's enough money for everyone—provided the clubs stop wasting millions on rookies. Finally, deal directly with issues of health and safety, which mean a lot more to most players than the nonsense which has previously been batted around the table.

33 Encourage more kickoff returns. This could be done simply by stating that from now on a kickoff downed in the end zone goes to the 10-yard line.

34 Hire permanent, well-trained referees. Other sports have full-time officials, but football still relies on moonlighting weekend warriors, who—let's be honest here—are not entirely competent. We like the way Minnesota Vikings' coach Jerry Burns put it: "Football is the only major sport where somebody like a shoe salesman makes decisions that affect a million-dollar business." If the issue here is money—and what in the NFL doesn't center on money?—we'd venture that the bucks saved by dumping instant replay would be more than enough to keep a skilled staff of zebras on the payroll.

35 Drop the two-minute warning. Maybe this was needed before the invention of stadi-

um clocks. But now, all it serves to do is add one more batch of commercials to the games. Do coaches really lose track of the time?

36 Get serious about separating football from gambling. Pressuring the networks to remove on-air tipsters was a good start. Now, how about eliminating those mid-week injury reports, which only serve as fodder for the guys putting a few quid on the games?

37 Eliminate the quarterback knee-drop at the end of games. The only thing more boring than this non-play are those endless fouls that can make the final two minutes of an NCAA basketball game last close to a half-hour. The uncompetitive knee-drop is a ridiculous sight that makes football resemble a game of stoop-tag. Either the quarterback should hand off or get tackled. No more of this mother-hen-curling-up-over-her-precious-egg routine.

38 Make the catch legal when a receiver gets one foot in bounds. The last time we checked, this rule had not destroyed the integrity of the college game. Mostly, this change would make life simpler for officials by cutting down on judgment calls.

39 Fire the bad owners. Incompetent coaches get the ziggy. Blundering players get put on waivers. But meddling, Machiavellian owners continue to ruin competitive teams, embarrass their communities, and cause endless suffering by loyal fans. Victor Kiam? We'd strap him to a Patriot missile. Robert Irsay? We'd stuff him in a moving van headed toward the Yukon. Bill Bidwell? William Clay Ford? Bud Adams? We'd relegate each to selling popcorn in the cheap seats of Major Indoor Lacrosse League contests.

40 Pass a rule requiring each team to use the flea-flicker, tackle-eligible, triple reverse, or fake kick at least once a game. An occasional Statue of Liberty wouldn't hurt; either. Gimmicks don't always work, but they bring a glint of excitement to those offenses which have all the gusto of bocce.

41 Keep the one-week gap between the playoffs and Super Bowl. The best thing about Super Bowl XXV—other than the thrilling finish, or the inspired play of Jeff Hostetler, or the elusiveness of Thurman Thomas, or the smarts of Bill Parcells, or the prerecorded voice of Whitney Houston—was that the shortened break leading up to it saved us from the usual overkill that produces stories like "Bart Oates's Most Memorable Hangnails." Too much time allows coaches to overprepare, thus turning most Super Bowls into insomnia cures. Restoring the two-week layover, we fear, will mean that we have to endure another XXV seasons before the next great championship game.

42 Pass the "counterpoint" rule, which would give the defensive team one point for returning a blocked extra-point attempt for a score. Besides adding some drama to football's most boring play, it would allow for a final score of 20-1.

43 Eliminate this regimental nonsense that restricts players to wearing numbers affiliated

with their positions. Hey, if conformity is so important, why not just make everyone wear a three-piece gray suit? What's the harm in Brian Bosworth wanting to be No. 44? Hockey hasn't collapsed because Wayne Gretzky wears No. 99.

44 Cut down on substitute situations. Comes third-and-long in the NFL and out trot a whole package of "dime backs" to cover the pass, just more evidence that the NFL has more specialization than any big-city hospital. The Eagles even employed Jim McMahon last season just to pick up the tee after kickoffs. How about limiting those "nickel" and "dime" defenses to a half-dozen plays per game? This, among other things, would force more man-to-man matchups between cornerbacks and wide receivers, and give defensive backfields a greater identity—just like the old days. Remember the inspired battles between the likes of Lionel Taylor and Willie Brown? Now try to name one current rivalry matching a receiver and a defender.

45 Quicken the clock. If a pro basketball team can run the floor in 24 seconds, an NFL team shouldn't need 45 seconds to get off each play. The Buffalo Bills proved last year that the game is more exciting when it moves quickly, rather than at the Russian chess-match pace which some clubs adhere to.

46 Cut back on overhead. The Philadelphia Eagles last year had three trainers, three equipment managers, two assistant general managers, and 12 coaches, and still couldn't find anyone who could return punts. Some guys seem to be getting paid a lot of money just to carry a clipboard.

47 Scrap the quarterback-ranking system, which requires a postgraduate degree from Cal Tech or a working knowledge of trigonometry to comprehend. Besides, what kind of crazy system rates Jay Schroeder over Dan Marino? The old average-gain-per-attempt rankings made more sense.

48 Bring back Howard Cosell. Yes, he's become bitter and a caricature of the caricature he used to be. But weren't Monday nights a lot more fun when the Humble One was the portentous provocateur of pontification?

49 End parity scheduling. How can the league defend the equity of purposely awarding easier schedules to weaker teams and harder schedules to better teams? What are we doing here, rewarding incompetence? All this system does is create artificial balance and trick fans in places like Dallas into believing their team is a legitimate contender.

50 Bring back the drop kick. Just because it would be fun. ☐

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Letters

Baseball Business

I've recently finished reading your annual Baseball edition. It was excellent, as usual, as are all of your various issues. I have just one comment about an article in this year's edition. The article by Lyle Spencer, "Let's Make a Deal," was a bit discouraging. Maybe his point is valid. Perhaps Ellis Burks can help out the Mets or Norm Charlton should be on the Pirates or Shawn Dunston could take the Dodgers to the Series. However, in this age of \$5 million contracts and arbitration disputes, the game of baseball is vanishing. Are these blockbuster deals turning baseball into another big business? What about the good old days? Would the Cardinals trade Stan Musial? Would the Giants trade Willie Mays (Mays was traded late in his career, but that certainly was not big business.) What about the Dodgers and Sandy Koufax? It was just a game. I think most fans want the game back. The owners can't use players for their living set of trading cards. Hey, I'll trade you my Ryan for your Sandberg!

BILL HICKS, Suisun, CA
Baseball is and was a big business. Today's

players now enjoy more freedom in determining for whom and for how much they will render their considerable talents.

I have been a loyal reader of Street and Smith's magazines covering all sports for the past number of years and I must commend you on the excellent job your staff does in providing the reader with accurate and up-to-date information. I have saved all of my old issues and enjoy looking back at them every once in a while. Your recent Baseball issue was excellent. I particularly enjoyed the article on Carlton Fisk. Here's a man that should be admired for his accomplishments and attitude and someone whom these younger players should look up to, someone like Barry Bonds!

One more thing, in your predictions for the National League West, in the section on the San Diego Padres (page 79) that's an excellent picture of Fred McGriff (alias Willie Upshaw). Just had to throw that in.

PAUL LENARDUZZI, Toronto, Ontario

Thank you for putting out a consistently excellent publication. However, I would like to respond to Tom Weir's "Matters of Opinion" piece in the 1991 Baseball. I'm tired of people claiming the Mets won the '86 World Series only because of [Bill Buckner's] error. The game was already tied at that point. Furthermore, the Red Sox won Game 1 in the same

fashion. Remember the 1-0 game where the ball went through Tim Lincecum's legs!

Secondly, I cannot see how Mr. Weir could choose Dave Stewart as one of the classiest players when Stewart set an unsportsmanlike precedent when he cried about the better team not winning the Series. Even if it had been a seven-game Series, [Stewart] would have been out of line.

JAMES MARINACCIO, Bronx, NY

Larry Johnson Was Covered

UNLV was selected No. 1 in your Street & Smith's College/Prep Basketball and Larry Johnson was your pick for the NCAA Player of the Year. You were right on the mark.

I was wondering if you could do me a special favor and put Larry Johnson on a cover of Street & Smith's—just the cover—for my special UNLV collection. I would be willing to pay.

JASON FINK, Hamden, CT

Street & Smith's College/Prep Basketball had six regional covers in 1990-91. UNLV's Larry Johnson was featured on the cover in the Rockies. Other cover selections included Chris Smith of Connecticut, Doug Smith of Missouri, Steve Smith of Michigan State—we seem to favor guys named Smith—Don MacLean of UCLA and Harold Miner of USC, and Bobby Hurley of Duke and Kenny Anderson of Georgia Tech.

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STREET AND SMITH'S PRO FOOTBALL

The Efficient New York Giants

■ Bill Parcells is a superb football coach. But his success is not the result of his "shortening-the-game" theory, at least not in any simple sense. Since a team must score to win, and if it scores it must give up the ball, long, clock-eating drives alone cannot guarantee victory.

The Giants won against all kinds of opponents because their defense prevented their opponents from scoring more than their own offense. The prime virtues of the Giants' grind-it-out, smash-up-the-middle offense were that it reduced turnovers via interceptions or fumble-causing sacks, kept its defense rested, and wore out the opponent's defense. (It may also have secured a psychological advantage, imparting a feeling of desperation and frustration to the other team's offense on the sidelines.)

Certainly a team relying on the run for its points cannot win if it doesn't pile up possession minutes. But this is just another way of saying that the team is capable of advancing the ball. It can, however, lose despite a large time of possession advantage if the other team scores too easily when it has the ball. The prime determinant of victory or defeat is the relative efficiency of each team's offense without regard to type of offense or time of possession.

ROBERT L. BARD, LEWIS KURLANTZICK,
Hartford, CT

Basketball Schedules

■ Another college basketball season has come and gone. Perhaps this one was somewhat less controversial and less tragic certainly than the 1989-90 season. I would like to make two points as you are undoubtedly starting to think of your 1991-92 issue.

First, I empathize with your decision not to publish the college schedules, but I don't agree with it. I have every issue since you began in 1970, and I believe that any schedule is better than none at all.

The second point is that we should not forget that the Duke Blue Devils are probably still among the colleges with one of the highest percentages of players graduating and I think this should be shouted from the rooftops.

J.D. COUGHLAN, Cheshire, CT

■ Just a line to thank you and commend you on publishing unquestionably the best coverage of college basketball available. I was disappointed, however, to see the schedules missing. Even though they are not perfectly accurate, they are very necessary (TV is a nuisance). They contain such info as past season record, school location, coach, and nickname. So please bring them back.

JIM CONCANNON, Bronx, NY

These letters express a consensus opinion from our readers, so the 1991-92 Street & Smith's College/Prep Basketball will carry the college schedules. We are sorry for disappointing many of our readers when we didn't carry them last year.

Correspondence should be addressed to
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there is little question that he will fit right in with the Raiders' aggressive image. Still, seeing him in something other than 49ers' red and gold is going to be like seeing Mickey Mantle out of Yankee pinstripes or Larry Bird minus Celtic green. If his knees were sound, he very likely would have been a 49er for the rest of his career. But he gave the best of his knees to the Niners, along with the tip of the little finger on his left hand, which he had amputated in 1986 rather than have surgery and miss the rest of the season.

"We've got to inject some youth into this team," 49er coach George Seifert said upon Lott's departure. Translation: The 49ers thought Lott had lost a step. The Raiders, on the other hand, said they didn't care, and signed him to a two-year contract worth a reported \$2.2 million. "We feel he can still help our football team," said coach Art Shell. "That's why we got him." So, on the way to the Hall of Fame, it's a change in address for one of the special players in football history.

He started as a cornerback after being the eighth player chosen in the 1981 draft, then switched to free safety in 1985. It was at that position that he became one of the most feared hitters in the game. He made nine Pro Bowls and set 49er franchise records in interceptions (51), in interception-return yardage (643), and interceptions returned for touchdowns (5).

But Lott was so much more than mere numbers for the 49ers. More than anyone, he gave the defense pride, and that pride—combined with considerable talent—led to four Super Bowl championships in the 1980s. Over the years, he became looked on almost as royalty by 49er fans, and by some of his teammates. When he heard Lott was leaving, ex-49er center Randy Cross said, "The lunch wagon is about to go to cold cuts and soda pop instead of porterhouses and champagne."

The longer you were around him, the more you were convinced there was not just one Ronnie Lott, but two. On the field, he was all ferocity and fire, whacking opponents cleanly but mercilessly. Off the field, he was almost docile. He was perhaps the most accessible 49er to the press. He'd usually talk football as long as you wanted, and he didn't bridle at uninformed questions.

There was always an intensity about him, though, and it was heightened by a scowl that seldom varied from menacing, even when there was no menace in his mood. The scowl goes back to Washington, D.C., where Lott lived between the ages of 5 and 10. It became part of his survival mechanism there.

"Everybody was competitive and tough in D.C.," he said. "I used to get beat up. They would take my ball away from me and I used to have to have my dad go get it back. I learned to get tough to survive."

Once that was accomplished, Lott never lost his game face, at least in public. "I remember when I first moved to California, people used to ask me why I was so intense," he said. "Now, everyone who has watched me play is so used to seeing me all intense on the field that when they see me acting differently at home, they ask if I'm tired or sick."

Lott definitely does not throw forearm smashes at the washing machine or try to in-

timidate the vacuum cleaner. "I like to just kick back, watch TV, read nonfiction books that teach me something," he said.

Lott's off-field lifestyle may be further calmed now that he's no longer a bachelor. He married model Karen Collmer in March, just before moving to the Raiders. But don't expect him to mellow much on the field with his new team, in his new role as a strong safety. He simply doesn't know how. He concedes his body can no longer do everything his heart asks, but as much as he can, he'll try to ignore that fact.

"Yes, I've been hurt," he said, "and you're going to slow down, get old. But that's no excuse. If your job is to get to point B, then you figure out a way to get there. Limp, crawl, whatever. Just get there. The goal is always to overcome the challenge, no matter what. It's a matter of pride. If I go back to the old neighborhood tomorrow to play some hoops, even at my age, I'm not going to let some guy slam dunk on me. That's what competition is."

Before the playoff game against Washington last season, Lott was hobbling around the locker room on a pair of sprained knees that had forced him out of four regular-season games. But he said he didn't feel any pain at all. He'd play because he always had played in big games, he said, because he watched childhood idols like Barry Brown and Pat Fischer of the old Redskins play through pain. Because it's part of the game, part of the passion that drives people to do things.

"You look at a great painter or a great writer," he said. "You start out as a kid who likes to write and you just keep writing because it's fun. Your hand might get cramped up because you're writing so much, but you keep writing. You don't understand that it's a passion because it isn't yet. It's just fun and games. But eventually it becomes all you really enjoy doing."

Lott had such a rare hunger with the 49ers that even his long-time teammates didn't fully understand it. Linebacker Keena Turner, for example, who played with Lott for a decade, admitted he wasn't sure what made him tick. "We often take those closest to us for granted," Turner said.

In his later years with the 49ers, though, Lott's teammates began to appreciate his unique makeup.

"His sustained physical and emotional intensity showed the younger players what it takes to excel in the NFL," former 49er safety Tom Holmoe said. "They'd look at how hard he worked, preparing and playing, and realize no matter how talented they thought they were, they wouldn't get anywhere unless they worked hard. We started calling him 'Coach Lott' because he was more than a great player, he was a great teacher and motivator. He didn't offer excuses even when he made the smallest mistake, so you certainly didn't, either. That forced the younger players to evaluate themselves and keep improving."

Lott credits former USC and Dallas defensive back Dennis Thurman and ex-Los Angeles Rams and 49ers linebacker Jack "Hack-saw" Reynolds with shaping his thinking.

"Dennis was like a father to me in football," Lott said. "When I was a freshman at USC and he was a senior, he began teaching me how to

keep my head in the game at all times. Even after he went to the Cowboys, he'd phone almost every week and give me clinics."

Reynolds helped even more.

"He taught me that negative input can be used as positive motivation," Lott said, "and that there is more to playing football than just lining up with your God-given ability." Typically, Lott invoked Reynolds's name when he signed with the Raiders. "I want to be like Hack-saw," Lott said. "That was a guy who crawled off the field at the end."

But even Hack-saw never gave part of a finger for the cause. "That was no big deal," Lott said. "Rocky Bleier went to Vietnam and got shot. People like that have suffered a lot more than I have."

It is that sort of self-sacrifice, though, that sort of toughness, which the 49ers might find exceedingly difficult to replace. San Francisco's sportswriters were split when he left the team. Some saw the 49ers' side, the need to go with youth. Others speculated if Lott's continuing leadership wasn't more important than his diminished talent.

Almost no one was happy about the way the 49ers handled matters. Last November, with Lott in the final season of a multi-year contract that paid him \$800,000 in 1990, the Niners gave him a three-year extension. "They said all along they would try to take care of me," Lott said at the time. "They didn't have to do it until the year was over. But it shows that they are first class."

When the year was over, however, many thought the 49ers stepped down in class by announcing they would not protect Lott from Plan B free agency. Lott told the team if money was the chief concern, he would take a \$200,000 pay cut to remain in San Francisco, but the 49ers spurned his offer. There was considerable tension between the two parties after that, tension that did not seem to abate when the 49ers eventually offered a one-year playing contract and a subsequent coaching job. Yet, when he signed with L.A., Lott said, "I'm not bitter. They have to make the decision they think is best for the organization."

Lott struggled with his decision, however. He talked about what he should do with teammates Turner, Montana, and Eric Wright, with former NFL wide receiver Ahmad Rashad, and with baseball Hall of Famer Joe Morgan.

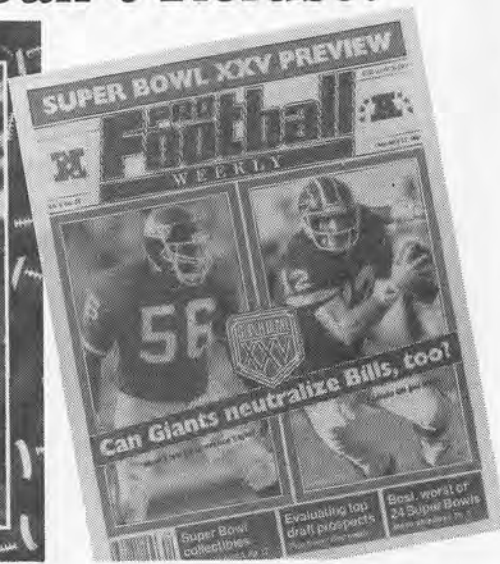
"They know loyalty is a big part of who I am," he said, "so a lot would say, 'Don't think you have to close the door on a lot of situations,'" he said. "A lot would say, 'If you go somewhere else, it's not going to be bad.' I'll be the first to tell you it's frightening because of the comfort zone I had with the 49ers, knowing how people will deal with you."

But Lott can find comfort in the fact that his hometown of Rialto, CA, is just a few minutes from the Los Angeles Coliseum, and his parents will be nearby. Lott also has long admired the play of Raiders' defensive backs like Jack Tatum and George Atkinson.

"I can't tell you how many times people have said to me, 'I can't believe you're in a Niner uniform. You're a Raider player, the way you play the game.' I'm going to continue to play the game that way."

And 49er fans are going to continue to miss his singular skills and attitude. A Lott. □

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NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE SCHEDULE 1991

Sunday, September 1

Atlanta at Kansas City
Cincinnati at Denver
Dallas at Cleveland
L.A. Raiders at Houston
Miami at Buffalo
Minnesota at Chicago
New England at Indianapolis
Philadelphia at Green Bay
Phoenix at L.A. Rams
San Diego at Pittsburgh
Seattle at New Orleans
Tampa Bay at New York Jets
Detroit at Washington (N)

Monday, September 2

San Francisco
at New York Giants (N)

Sunday, September 8

Chicago at Tampa Bay
Cleveland at New England
Denver at L.A. Raiders
Green Bay at Detroit
Indianapolis at Miami
L.A. Rams at New York Giants
Minnesota at Atlanta
New Orleans at Kansas City
New York Jets at Seattle
Phoenix at Philadelphia
Pittsburgh at Buffalo
San Diego at San Francisco
Houston at Cincinnati (N)

Monday, September 9

Washington at Dallas (N)

Sunday, September 15

Atlanta at San Diego
Buffalo at New York Jets
Cincinnati at Cleveland
Indianapolis at L.A. Raiders
Miami at Detroit
New England at Pittsburgh
New York Giants at Chicago
Philadelphia at Dallas
Phoenix at Washington
San Francisco at Minnesota
Seattle at Denver
Tampa Bay at Green Bay
L.A. Rams at New Orleans (N)

Monday, September 16

Kansas City at Houston (N)

Sunday, September 22

Buffalo at Tampa Bay
Cleveland at New York Giants
Detroit at Indianapolis
Green Bay at Miami
Houston at New England
L.A. Raiders at Atlanta
L.A. Rams at San Francisco
Minnesota at New Orleans
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia
San Diego at Denver
Seattle at Kansas City
Washington at Cincinnati
Dallas at Phoenix (N)

Monday, September 23

New York Jets at Chicago (N)

Sunday, September 29

Open Date: 4 AFC Central Teams
Chicago at Buffalo
Green Bay at L.A. Rams
Indianapolis at Seattle
Kansas City at San Diego
Miami at New York Jets
New England at Phoenix
New Orleans at Atlanta
New York Giants at Dallas
San Francisco at L.A. Raiders
Tampa Bay at Detroit
Denver at Minnesota (N)

Monday, September 30

Philadelphia at Washington (N)

Sunday, October 6

Open Date: 4 NFC West Teams
Dallas vs. Green Bay (Milw)
Denver at Houston
Miami at New England
Minnesota at Detroit
New York Jets at Cleveland
Philadelphia at Tampa Bay
Phoenix at New York Giants
San Diego at L.A. Raiders
Seattle at Cincinnati
Washington at Chicago
Pittsburgh at Indianapolis (N)

Monday, October 7

Buffalo at Kansas City (N)

Sunday, October 13

Open Date: 4 NFC Central and
2 AFC Fifth-Place Teams
Cincinnati at Dallas
Cleveland at Washington
Houston at New York Jets
Indianapolis at Buffalo
Miami at Kansas City
New Orleans at Philadelphia
Phoenix at Minnesota
San Diego at L.A. Rams
San Francisco at Atlanta
L.A. Raiders at Seattle (N)

Monday, October 14

New York Giants at Pittsburgh (N)

Thursday, October 17

Chicago at Green Bay (N)

Sunday, October 20

Open Dates: 4 NFC East Teams
Atlanta at Phoenix
Cleveland at San Diego
Detroit at San Francisco
Houston at Miami
Kansas City at Denver
L.A. Rams at L.A. Raiders
Minnesota at New England
New York Jets at Indianapolis
Seattle at Pittsburgh
Tampa Bay at New Orleans

Monday, October 21

Cincinnati at Buffalo (N)

Sunday, October 27

Open Date: 4 AFC East Teams
Chicago at New Orleans
Cincinnati at Houston
Dallas at Detroit
Denver at New England
Green Bay at Tampa Bay
L.A. Rams at Atlanta
Minnesota at Phoenix
Pittsburgh at Cleveland
San Diego at Seattle
San Francisco at Philadelphia
Washington at New York Giants (N)

Monday, October 28

L.A. Raiders at Kansas City (N)

Sunday, November 3

Open Date: 4 AFC West Teams
Atlanta at San Francisco
Cleveland at Cincinnati
Detroit at Chicago
Green Bay at New York Jets
Houston at Washington
Miami at Indianapolis
New England at Buffalo
New Orleans at L.A. Rams
Phoenix at Dallas
Tampa Bay at Minnesota
Pittsburgh at Denver (N)

Monday, November 4

New York Giants at Philadelphia (N)

Sunday, November 10

Atlanta at Washington
Buffalo vs. Green Bay (Milw)
Dallas at Houston
Detroit at Tampa Bay
Indianapolis at New York Jets
Kansas City at L.A. Rams
L.A. Raiders at Denver
New York Giants at Phoenix
Philadelphia at Cleveland
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati
San Francisco at New Orleans
Seattle at San Diego
New England at Miami (N)

Monday, November 11

Chicago at Minnesota (N)

Sunday, November 17

Chicago at Indianapolis
Cincinnati at Philadelphia
Dallas at New York Giants
Denver at Kansas City
L.A. Rams at Detroit
Minnesota at Green Bay
New Orleans at San Diego
New York Jets at New England
Phoenix at San Francisco
Seattle at L.A. Raiders
Tampa Bay at Atlanta
Washington at Pittsburgh
Cleveland at Houston (N)

Monday, November 18

Buffalo at Miami (N)

Sunday, November 24

Buffalo at New England
Dallas at Washington
Denver at Seattle
Detroit at Minnesota
Houston at Pittsburgh
Indianapolis vs. Green Bay (Milw)
Kansas City at Cleveland
L.A. Raiders at Cincinnati
Miami at Chicago
New York Giants at Tampa Bay
Philadelphia at Phoenix
San Diego at New York Jets
Atlanta at New Orleans (N)

Monday, November 25

San Francisco at L.A. Rams (N)

Thursday, November 28

Chicago at Detroit
Pittsburgh at Dallas

Sunday, December 1

Open Date: 2 NFC Fifth-Place Teams
Cleveland at Indianapolis
Green Bay at Atlanta
Kansas City at Seattle
New England at Denver
New Orleans at San Francisco
New York Giants at Cincinnati
New York Jets at Buffalo
Tampa Bay at Miami
Washington at L.A. Rams
L.A. Raiders at San Diego (N)

Monday, December 2

Philadelphia at Houston (N)

Sunday, December 8

Atlanta at L.A. Rams
Buffalo at L.A. Raiders
Denver at Cleveland
Green Bay at Chicago
Indianapolis at New England
New Orleans at Dallas
New York Jets at Detroit
Philadelphia at New York Giants
Pittsburgh at Houston
San Diego at Kansas City
San Francisco at Seattle
Washington at Phoenix
Minnesota at Tampa Bay (N)

Monday, December 9

Cincinnati at Miami (N)

Saturday, December 14

Kansas City at San Francisco
Tampa Bay at Chicago

Sunday, December 15

Cincinnati at Pittsburgh
Dallas at Philadelphia
Detroit at Green Bay
Houston at Cleveland
L.A. Rams at Minnesota
Miami at San Diego
New England at New York Jets
New York Giants at Washington
Phoenix at Denver
Seattle at Atlanta
Buffalo at Indianapolis (N)

Monday, December 16

L.A. Raiders at New Orleans (N)

Saturday, December 21

Green Bay at Minnesota
Houston at New York Giants

Sunday, December 22

Atlanta at Dallas
Cleveland at Pittsburgh
Denver at San Diego
Detroit at Buffalo
Indianapolis at Tampa Bay
Kansas City at L.A. Raiders
New England at Cincinnati
New Orleans at Phoenix
New York Jets at Miami
Washington at Philadelphia
L.A. Rams at Seattle (N)

Monday, December 23

Chicago at San Francisco (N)

Saturday, December 28

Sunday, December 29
Wild-Card Playoffs

Saturday, January 4

Sunday, January 5
Divisional Playoffs

Sunday, January 12

NFC & AFC Championships

Sunday, January 26

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Sunday, February 2

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HALL OF FAME

● The Pro Football Hall of Fame will open its doors on July 27 to welcome the Class of 1991: Earl Campbell, John Hannah, Stan Jones, Tex Schramm, and Jan Stenerud.

A consensus All-America running back and the Heisman Trophy winner in his senior year at the University of Texas, Earl Campbell was the No. 1 pick in the 1978 NFL draft, by the Houston Oilers. He was an immediate success as a pro, leading the league in rushing and earning Rookie of the Year and the first of his three Most Valuable Player awards. He enjoyed his best effort in 1980, when he ran for 1,934 yards and 13 touchdowns. Traded to New Orleans in 1984, Campbell retired after the following season with 9,407 career yards, ninth-best in NFL history, and 76 touchdowns.

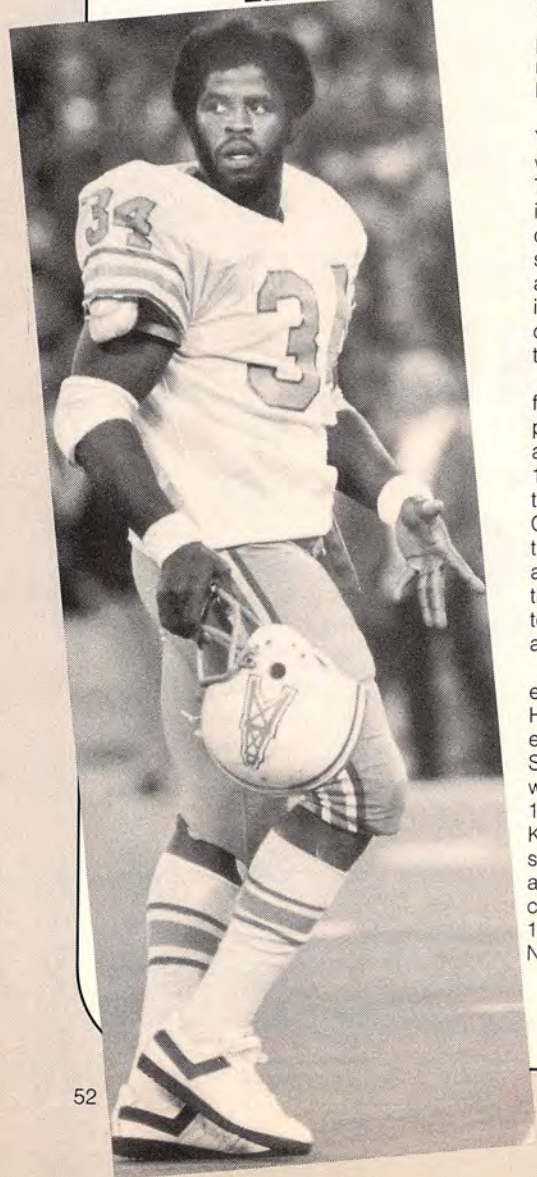
John Hannah won All-America acclaim at the University of Alabama in the less glamorous role of offensive guard. The first-round draft choice of the New England Patriots in 1973, he established himself as the premier player at his position, receiving all-pro recognition for 10 consecutive years. He retired following the Patriots' Super Bowl defeat in 1986.

Stan Jones was the college Lineman of the Year in 1953 at the University of Maryland, where he played on both sides of the ball. Taken by the Chicago Bears as a future pick in the NFL draft, Jones began his pro career at offensive tackle, moved to guard the following season and earned seven straight Pro Bowl appearances, then shifted to defensive tackle in the Bears' championship year in 1963. He closed out a 13-year career with the Washington Redskins in 1966.

Tex Schramm made his contributions to pro football off the field. He started in 1947 as the publicity director of the Los Angeles Rams and had moved up to general manager by 1956, when he joined CBS Sports. He returned to the NFL in 1960 as the president and GM of the Dallas Cowboys. During his term, the team had 18 playoff and five Super Bowl appearances in 20 years. Schramm was also the chairman of the NFL competition committee and a proponent of the NFL-AFL merger and the expanded playoff format.

Jan Stenerud is the first player who was exclusively a place-kicker to be elected to the Hall of Fame. A Norwegian native who attended Montana State on a skiing scholarship, Stenerud made his mark on the football team with an NCAA-record 59-yard field goal in 1966. He was drafted the following year by the Kansas City Chiefs, for whom he played 13 seasons. He joined the Green Bay Packers as a free agent in 1980 and concluded a 19-year career in 1985 with the Minnesota Vikings with 1,699 points, second to George Blanda in NFL history.

Earl Campbell



Jan Stenerud



John Hannah

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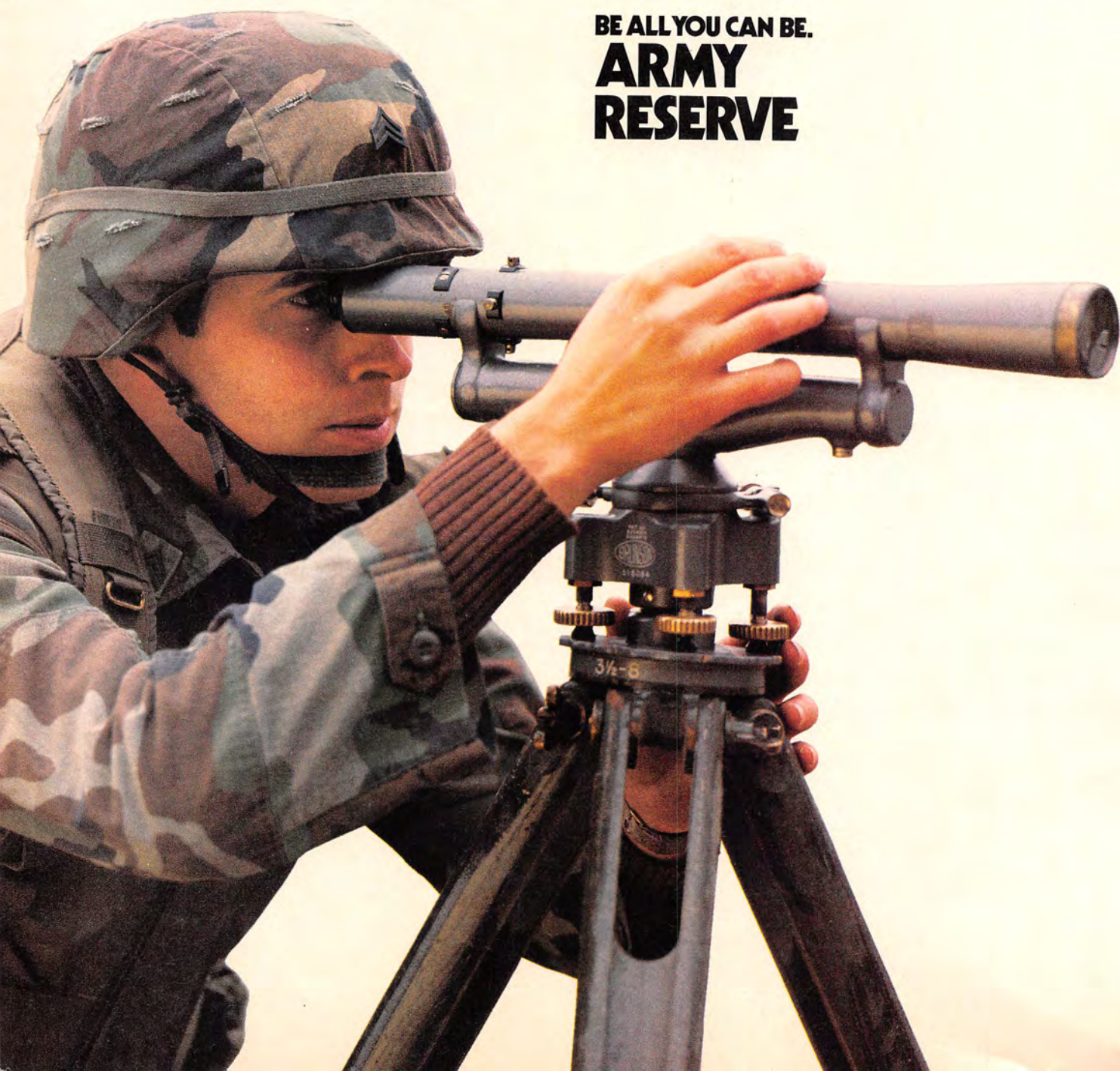
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JEFF GEORGE



**Last year's
draft was rich with
underclassmen.**

ROOKIES OF THE YEAR

● If the 1991 NFL draft was lacking in star power, if the overall talent level seemed a little, well, thin, there was good reason. Not to suggest that players such as Russell Maryland, Todd Lyght, Dan McGwire, and others were unworthy picks or won't eventually help their teams. But if the league's most recent talent harvest had been a post-Oscars party, it would have been held not at the Brown Derby but at a Burger King somewhere off La Cienega Boulevard. Definitely "B" list.

The problem? Glamour guys such as Jeff George, Andre Ware, Junior Seau, Mark Carrier, Keith McCants, Emmitt Smith, and Rodney Hampton started without their classmates, one year early. The 1990 draft was so rich with underclassmen that this spring's crop lacked depth. A smattering of intriguing early-eligibles such as Ismail and Southern Cal quarterback Todd Marinovich couldn't make up for the number of juniors who traded in their senior seasons for rookie paychecks last fall.

All told, 38 juniors took advantage of the NFL's relaxed rules for draft eligibility in 1990. Convinced that they had learned enough on AstroTurf-covered fields to leave the ivy-covered walls behind, they rolled the dice early. Some college coaches worried that a trend would be set, with underclassmen banging down the doors in the pro league. That it has not happened has less to do with the few rookies who thrived than with the ones who didn't.

"Only seven of the first-round picks were starting at the time the season opened," said Tom Braatz, Green Bay's vice president of football operations. "I think kids looked and saw that players like McCants, Seau, Ware, all drafted high, weren't even starting." If that wasn't lesson enough, the fact that 20 of the 38 underclassmen were not even drafted might have been. Having renounced their eligibility,

by STEVE ASCHBURNER
MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE

ROOKIES OF THE YEAR

they could not return to their college teams. Many did not continue in school.

"The most important thing is getting good information," said George. "You must make sure you talk to the right people and get a good reading on what your chances are before you decide to come out."

This year, Braatz said, underclassmen probably received better advice. "Their college coaches got to 'em a little better this time. And the message from the pro scouts was, 'Stay in school.' The rumors that the agents had been spreading—that the money was going to be drying up—didn't seem to be true. At this point, it doesn't appear we're going to have a wage scale for rookies any time soon."

"The real top group of players, I don't know how much one more year would have meant to them," said Jerry Reichow, Minnesota's director of football operations. "Mostly, though, you're talking about your skill positions. Offensive linemen, they need a lot of time, so that last year is important. Even a quarterback takes longer to develop."

Unless his name is George. The Indianapolis Colts, who gambled that the former Illinois quarterback not only was talented enough to be drafted No. 1 but worth trading away a big chunk of proven talent, believed that George was more mature than most juniors. He had, after all, spent four years on campus, redshirting in 1987 after transferring from Purdue. Besides, he was not typical

quarterback. Big (6-4, 221), with a howitzer arm, a hair-trigger release, and local roots that marketing men drool over (he was born and raised in Indianapolis), George was too good to pass up. So the Colts ignored the critics, shipped receiver Andre Rison, offensive tackle Chris Hinton, and a first-round pick to Atlanta and signed George to a six-year, \$15 million deal.

"He saved the Colts by coming through for 'em," said John Wooten, Dallas's pro personnel director. "The one knock I had heard that he totally surprised everyone on was that he wasn't supposed to be a tough guy. But I saw a couple of games where he got right in [defenders'] eyes."

George's poise was most evident in Indianapolis's 35-28 victory over Washington late in the season, in which the rookie overcame a 25-14 deficit in the fourth quarter and threw for 252 yards and three touchdowns. "I think he changed a lot of people's minds," Colts' GM Jim Irsay said.

Said George, who led Indy to five victories in the second half of the season: "The mental aspect is such a big part of the game. That's what I need to improve the most. Now I feel like a veteran out there and I'm starting to make the proper checks and proper reads. It's just a matter of experience."

Some compared George to Miami's Dan Marino. As a rookie in 1983, Marino completed 173 of 296 passes (58 percent) for 2,210 yards. George completed 181 of 334 (54 percent) for 2,152 yards. George finished with 16 touchdowns and 13 interceptions—only the ninth rookie in league history to have more TDs than INTs. Said Reichow, "If he is legitimate, it's hard to put dollars on that. There aren't many top quarterbacks." Now, if only he can get as much protection as Marino. George was sacked 37 times and Marino an NFL-low 16 times.

"It's very hard to stick a rookie quarterback in there," said Bob Hollway, a Vikings'

assistant general manager. "Pittsburgh did it with [Terry] Bradshaw. But you worry about destroying confidence."

None of 1990's top rookies seemed to lack confidence. The Cowboys traded up to pick Emmitt Smith, a junior from Florida, and it was a brilliant move. Smith rushed for 937 yards (just 70 short of Tony Dorsett's Dallas rookie record) and caught 20 passes for 228 yards. He complained early in the year about not getting the ball, then backed it up when he did, most notably with a 132-yard performance against Washington on Thanksgiving. "He doesn't have great speed, but he's a tough kid," Wooten said.

Joining Smith in the all-rookie backfield was Phoenix's Johnny Johnson, the sleeper in last year's draft. Johnson had been kicked off the team at San Jose State, didn't cooperate with scouts, and wound up lasting until the seventh round. "People took that to mean he might not have strong character," Wooten said. All he did, however, was gain 926 yards on 234 carries with five touchdowns and catch 25 passes for 241 yards. "What really stuck out was his catching ability, but he showed he's a good runner, too," Reichow said.

Blair Thomas, the second player picked, paced the Jets with 620 yards and caught 20 passes for 204 yards. San Francisco's Dexter Carter ran for 460 yards. Other rookie backs: Atlanta's Steve Broussard (454 yards), Tampa Bay's Reggie Cobb (480), and Phoenix's Anthony Thompson (390).

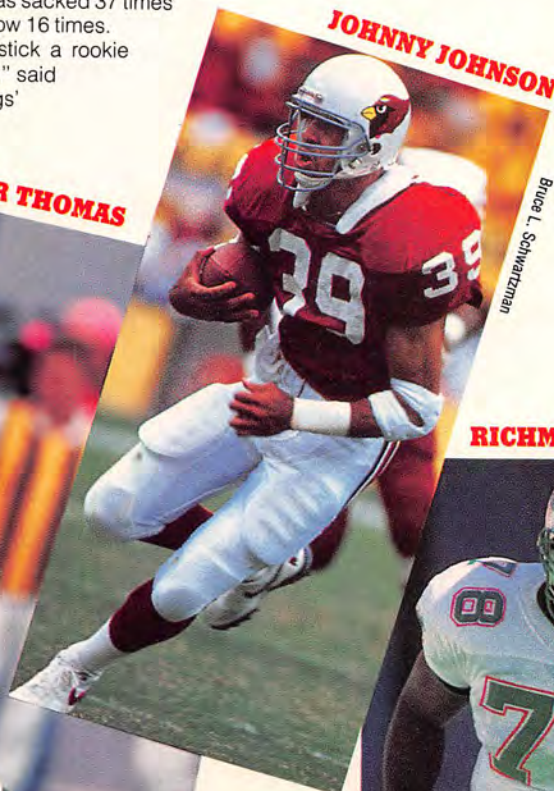
Hampton, an early arrival from Georgia, did not see as much action as some peers but may prove more valuable in the future. The Giants were thrilled that Hampton was still available when they picked late in the



EMMITT SMITH



BLAIR THOMAS



JOHNNY JOHNSON



RICHMOND WEBB

first round. He remained in O. J. Anderson's shadow much of the season, but finished with 455 yards on 109 carries with two touchdowns. He also caught 32 passes for 274 yards and two touchdowns, but missed the NFC title game and Super Bowl with a broken foot.

Philadelphia rebuilt its receiving corps with three of its first four picks last year. Two of them, Fred Barnett and Calvin Williams, were good enough to start and the third, Mike Bellamy, wasn't far behind. Barnett caught 36 passes for 721 yards with eight touchdowns, including the oft-replayed, 95-yard scamble from Cunningham against Buffalo. Williams had 37 receptions for 602 yards with nine touchdowns.

Phoenix's Ricky Proehl, a third-rounder, ran terrific routes and caught 56 passes for 802 yards with four touchdowns. The Jets' pick in the supplemental draft, Rob Moore, used great leaping ability to pull in 44 passes for 692 yards, Dallas's Alexander Wright caught 11 passes for 104 yards and returned 12 kickoffs for 276 yards, including a 90-yard touchdown against the Giants.

What the Eagles did with receivers, the Dolphins did with their offensive line. Miami plucked Richmond Webb from Texas A&M and Keith Sims from Iowa State and made them both starters on the left side. Not only did they keep uninvited guests away from Marino, they helped boost the team's rushing average from 83.1 yards in 1989 to 95.9. Webb even became the first rookie tackle selected to the Pro Bowl. So much for the conventional wisdom that says linemen need time to develop.

Other top rookie offensive linemen included the Rams' Bern Brostek, expected to move from guard to center this season; Kansas City's Tim Grunhard, the successor to legend Mike Webster at center; and the Chiefs' Dave Szott, a seventh-round pick from Penn State who started 11 games.

When Pittsburgh tight end Eric Green staged a holdout in a contract hassle, Steelers' coach Chuck Noll said Green never would be effective in 1990. Wrong! Green was an instant transfusion to the league's worst offense, catching five touchdowns in two games and leading all tight ends with seven TDs. He had 34 receptions for 387 yards, and is a load to tackle or fend off.

Former Tampa Bay coach Ray Perkins wasn't wrong about Steve Christie. Perkins had so much confidence in the rookie kicker that he cut veteran Donald Igwebuike in training camp. Christie hit 23 of 27 field goals and was perfect on extra points.

Unlike Green, Chicago's Mark Carrier had no contract problems. The Bears signed him before they made him the sixth pick overall. Some questioned the decision, especially after word leaked that Chicago had first tried the same tactics with James Francis and Ray Agnew. But Carrier proved to be the NFL's top defensive rookie. He led the league with 10 interceptions as Chicago led all teams with 31. And despite cornerback size, he was one of the NFL's most bruising hitters. "I compare him to the old, great defensive backs they had at USC, like Dennis Smith, Ronnie Lott, and Joey Browner," Wooten said. "He's from the same mold. He's smart, tough, and a hard worker." Said Reichow, "They got a lot of flak for taking him so high. But it didn't seem high to us."

Joining Carrier in the all-rookie secondary were Seattle's Robert Blackmon, another big hitter; Buffalo's James Williams, a terrific athlete who needs experience; and Philadelphia's Ben Smith, who played both corner and safety and had three interceptions. Honorable mention: New Orleans's Vince Buck and Green Bay's Leroy Butler.

In addition to college juniors, the 1990 draft was dripping with linebackers. Francis, picked 12th, led the Bengals in tackles and sacks and drew double-teaming late in the season. Percy Snow, who joined fellow Butkus Award winner Derrick Thomas with the Chiefs, started all year and eventually learned to play within the system. Washington, again without a first-round pick, took Andre Collins in the second round and got itself a safety-sized linebacker who finished sec-

ond on his team in sacks. When the Raiders' top pick, defensive end Anthony Smith, was sidelined by a knee injury, they turned OLB Aaron Wallace into their designated pass rusher and he wound up with nine sacks. Other rookie linebackers of note included San Diego's Seau, who struggled in his move to the inside; Chicago's Ron Cox, a blitzing threat; Atlanta's Darion Conner, and Green Bay's Tony Bennett. McCants, picked fourth by Tampa Bay, missed valuable training-camp time with a bad knee and wound up with two sacks.

Mike Fox was the best of the five defensive linemen taken by the Giants last year, a hard worker who excels against the run. Agnew, another run-stopper, was a bright spot in New England's otherwise dreary and embarrassing season. Renaldo Turnbull, with nine sacks, gave the Saints some much-needed pass rush, although he had his troubles against the run. Other rookie linemen included Seattle's Cortez Kennedy, San Francisco's Dennis Brown, and Detroit's Dan Owens.

Among the bigger disappointments from the 1990 draft were New England linebacker Chris Singleton, who never recovered after missing camp, and Houston linebacker Lamar Lathon, who had shoulder surgery and still needs to learn the game. Detroit's Ware, the 1989 Heisman Trophy winner, held out, rode the bench, and was yanked at half time of the first game he started after hitting five of the 11 passes for 48 yards and two interceptions against Minnesota. He remains second on the Lions' depth chart, behind Rodney Peete, and a symbol of the struggles underclassmen can face when they enter the job market too soon.

"The Lions never really worked him," Hollway said. "It was like [coach] Wayne Fontes made a decision that no quarterback can play as a rookie."

Unless his name is George. □

ALL-ROOKIE TEAM

Offense

QB — *Jeff George, Indianapolis
RB — *Emmitt Smith, Dallas
RB — Johnny Johnson, Phoenix
WR — Fred Barnett, Philadelphia
WR — Ricky Proehl, Phoenix
OL — Richmond Webb, Miami
OL — Keith Sims, Miami
OL — Bern Brostek, Los Angeles Rams
OL — Tim Grunhard, Kansas City
OL — Dave Szott, Kansas City
TE — Eric Green, Pittsburgh
K — Steve Christie, Tampa Bay

Defense

DL — Ray Agnew, New England
DL — Mike Fox, New York Giants
DL — Renaldo Turnbull, New Orleans
LB — James Francis, Cincinnati
LB — Percy Snow, Kansas City
LB — Andre Collins, Washington
LB — Aaron Wallace, Los Angeles Raiders
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Street & Smith's 1991 ALL-AMERICA TEAM

by **JIM CARLEY**
THE NATIONAL SPORTS DAILY

At first glance, one might naturally think that the spotlight in college football will be on the battle of the quarterbacks, those big-name stars from Brigham Young University and the University of Houston who ran up pinball-type numbers in passing last season. Ty Detmer, BYU's Heisman Trophy winner, and UH's David Klingler will keep the statisticians busy as they march their teams through opponents' secondaries this year.

But the spotlight will also shine on at least three running backs, maybe four, all of them underclassmen. In spite of the presence of two of the NCAA's most prolific passers ever, this likely will be the Year of the Running Back in college football. It has been at least nine years since the country has seen this many outstanding runners on the loose. In 1982, Herschel Walker won the Heisman Trophy at Georgia and was on all the All-America teams with SMU's Eric Dickerson and Nebraska's Mike Rozier. It may be at least that impressive a class among this year's backs.

The list must start with Stanford's Glyn Milburn, perhaps the most dangerous all-purpose threat since Nebraska's Johnny Rodgers in 1972. He finished as the nation's leader in all-purpose yards (2,222) as a sophomore last year. Cardinal coach Denny Green promises that we haven't seen anything yet. "In one season, Glynn has established himself as the finest all-around offensive threat in college football," Green said. "Glyn is a jack-of-all-trades and has the true characteristics to master them all."

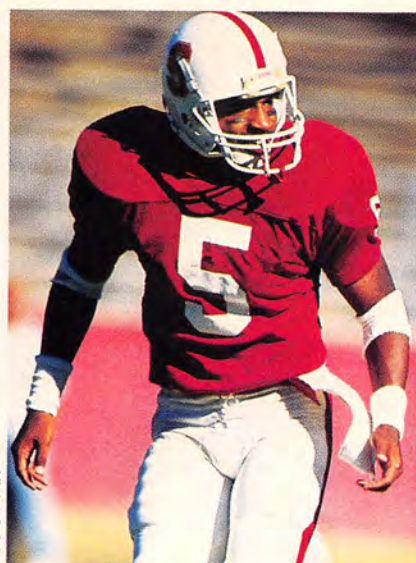
He didn't get a bad start at mastering them last year. The cousin of former Olympic gold-medal hurdler Rod Milburn was eligible for the first time since sitting out a year after transferring from Oklahoma (where his 15.5 yards-per-carry average in only eight attempts led the team as a freshman under coach Barry Switzer). Milburn made up for lost time by taking the first punt of the season back 73 yards against Colorado. He was caught at the one-yard line in that jaunt, his first time to touch the football in a game in two seasons. Things got better after that. He had a 57-yard return for a touchdown against Washington and ranked third in the Pac-10 in punt returns (11.1 yards) and second in kickoff returns (24.7). He was first-team all-conference as a running back and second-team as a returner.

Though his rushing figures weren't overwhelming (66.3 yards per game), it was mostly because he carried from 30 to 50 fewer times than most of the leaders in the league

continued



Ty Detmer Brigham Young



Glyn Milburn Stanford



Russell White California



Mazio Royster Southern Cal



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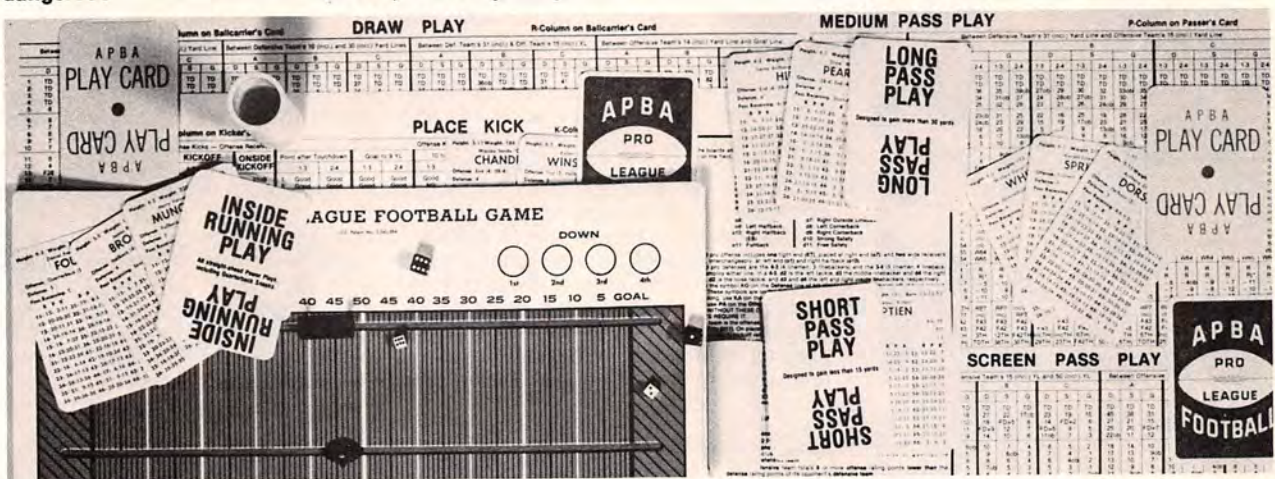
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and across the nation. He had only 152 carries, but averaged 4.8 yards per rush to gain his 729 yards. That's when he wasn't catching the ball. Milburn led the Pac-10 in receiving, with 64 catches for 632 more yards. Against California in the season finale, Milburn perhaps gave a sign of things to come when he had his biggest day—196 yards rushing and 66 yards receiving along with 123 in kickoff returns and minus six on one punt return for a season-high 379 all-purpose yards. The academic all-Pac-10 selection was one of eight finalists for the Doak Walker Award, given to the nation's top running back.

Ironically, in that Cal game Milburn faced probably his strongest competition for individual honors this year in Cal's Russell White. The two are very different types of backs—Milburn is 5-9, 175 while White is 6-0, 200—but they achieve similar results. White was overshadowed somewhat last season because he split playing time with senior Anthony Wallace. Both backs gained 1,000 yards rushing, but White was well-remembered by his league opponents. He became the first player ever to make first-team all-Pac-10 without starting a single game. Though he was sharing the job, White still finished seventh in the country in all-purpose yards (159.6), eighth in kickoff returns (26.2), and 28th in rushing (90.9). He returned his first kickoff at home for a 99-yard touchdown against Miami and had returns of 63 and 49 yards against Southern Cal.

White didn't carry many more times than Milburn, averaging just 16.4 rushes per game. That likely won't be the case this year. "Russell has a chance to be the best back in college football," Bears' offensive coordinator Steve Mariucci said, "and we just have to get him the football." A slashing runner who is a threat to score from anywhere on the field, White was the subject of a catchy promotional video produced by the Bears' publicity department. The highlight of that tape was a series of breakaway runs played to the accompaniment of M.C. Hammer's "U Can't Touch This"—a sentiment opponents are afraid may be all too true this fall.

Millburn and White are just two of the top backs from the west coast. From the midwest comes Michigan State tailback Koran (Tico) Duckett, who adopted the name Tico from a cartoon character he loved as a boy. Opponents, however, found nothing amusing about him last year, when he ran for 1,376 yards. He is the nation's leading returning rusher. Like White, he shared time with a senior who also gained 1,000 yards, Hyland Hickson, and will have the whole show to himself this year. Duckett, another slashing type of runner, isn't as diversified as his Pac-10 counterparts—he caught only nine passes and returned one kickoff last year—but that could change. "If we gave the ball to Tico more," coach George Perles said, "he would probably lead the nation in about every category."

Joining him on Street & Smith's All-America second-team is another in a long line of outstanding USC tailbacks. Mazio Royster had

1,043 yards as a sophomore last season, though he started only nine games, and is the Pac-10's leading returning rusher.

"We think he's one of the best backs in the nation," coach Larry Smith said. "He had a great year in 1990 for starting only nine games. But we're looking for bigger and better things from him now. He's a very hard-nosed, slashing runner and he has great speed to get outside."

Royster, who had just one carry in USC's first three games, took over after Ricky Ervins was injured and became only the third Trojan sophomore (after Anthony Davis and Charles White) to gain 1,000 yards. Teammates call him "Rolls" Royster and with him back, the Southern Cal running game obviously will be going first class.

As for the quarterbacks, Detmer is still at the head of the class with his 11,000 career passing yards and 42 NCAA records. The 6-0, 175-pound senior became the WAC's first Heisman winner, leading the nation in passing yards (5,188) and finishing second in pass rating (155.9) and total offense (418.5 yards per game). He needs only 446 yards, which he could get in the season opener, to become the NCAA's all-time passing leader.

Detmer surely will be in a toe-to-toe battle for the season passing and total-offense marks with Klingler again this season. Houston coach John Jenkins said Klingler already was better at directing the run-and-shoot offense last year than anyone he had coached in the system—including Jim Kelly, Doug Flutie, and 1989 Heisman winner Andre Ware. Klingler led the nation in total offense (474.6) and broke or tied 33 NCAA records in only his first season as a starter. His most startling statistic was the NCAA-record 54 touchdown passes that UH publicists hasten to point out would have led the nation even without the 11 he threw in one game against helpless Division I-AA Eastern Washington.

Unfortunately for Detmer and Klingler, they won't have a receiver like Patrick Rowe to throw to. The San Diego State senior led the nation in yards per game receiving (126.6) last year and set an NCAA record with nine consecutive 100-yard receiving games, a streak that continues into this season. He had 71 catches, the most for any returning receiver. The 6-1, 200-pounder had a high of 11 receptions and 224 yards against UCLA.

The other wide receiver is Michigan State senior Courtney Hawkins, whose 1990 figures (31 catches for 474 yards) are misleading. Hawkins missed five games with a broken collarbone. As a sophomore he caught 60 passes for 1,080 yards, becoming only the 12th receiver in Big Ten history to hit the 1,000-yard mark in receptions.

"Courtney reminds me of Lynn Swann," said Perles, who was an assistant with the Pittsburgh Steelers during Swann's all-pro career. "He can go to the ball, he has the ability to control his body in the air, and he's tough. He's got that fluid motion, great hands, and great moves."

At tight end, Notre Dame's Derek Brown has been the second-leading receiver on the team the past two seasons, behind Rocket Ismail, and figures to be the Irish's top target this season. He's also a devastating blocker at 6-7 and 243 pounds.

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Broncos	7 Elway	Vikings	75 Millard
Broncos	26 Humphrey	Vikings	47 Browner
Bills	12 Kelly	Falcons	21 D. Sanders
Bills	78 B. Smith	Rams	11 Everett
Bills	83 Reed	Saints	56 Swilling
Bills	97 C. Bennett	49ers	16 Montana
Dolphins	13 Marino	49ers	80 Rice
Dolphins	83 Clayton	Colts	11 George
Bengals	30 Woods	Packers	7 Majkowski
Bengals	7 Esiason	Packers	77 Mandarich
Browns	19 Kosar	Steelers	6 Brister
Browns	21 Metcalf	Steelers	33 Hoge
Oilers	1 Moon	Chiefs	58 Thomas
Eagles	12 Cunningham	Lions	20 B. Sanders
Redskins	58 Marshall	Chargers	83 A. Miller
Bears	50 Singletary	Chargers	55 Seau



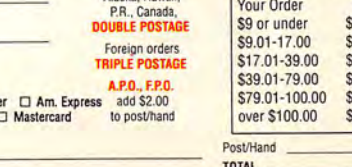
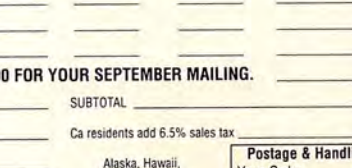
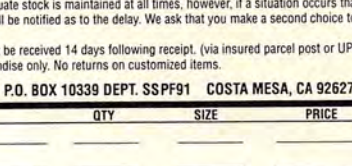
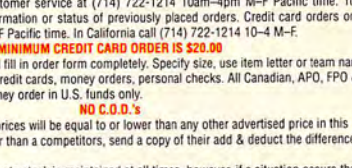
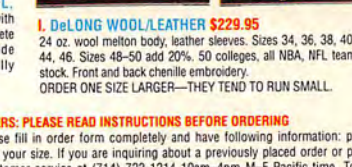
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New for 1991, made by New Era, team logo on front. New Era logo on back. Specify size when ordering: 6 3/4, 6 7/8, 7 1/8, 7 1/4, 7 3/8, 7 1/2, 7 5/8.



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Street & Smith's 1991 ALL-AMERICA TEAM

The offensive line is held down by three 300-plus pounders in Stanford's Bob Whitfield (6-7, 315), Michigan's Greg Skrepenak, (6-6, 320), and Virginia's Ray Roberts (6-6, 300), along with the runt of the group, Notre Dame guard Mirko Jurkovic (6-5, 281), a lock for the all-name team. The center on that line is even smaller, Colorado's 6-3, 265-pound Jay Leeuwenberg, but he was an all-Big Eight player who should contend for the Outland and Lombardi Awards.

Miami place-kicker Carlos Huerta, with an NCAA-record 141 extra points, edged out an impressive group of kickers this season for the first-team spot.

Just as the offense has only one consensus returning player (Detmer), Street & Smith's preseason All-America defense also has only one: Georgia Tech strong safety Ken Swilling. He finished third in the Jim Thorpe Award voting for the nation's top defensive backs last year, and the top two vote-getters are not returning. Swilling had 71 tackles and was 12th in the nation in interceptions, with five, despite missing two games with an ankle injury.

Joining Swilling in the secondary is Florida junior Will White, who was a semifinalist in the Thorpe voting and was named All-America by the Football Writers Association. White led the Southeastern Conference and ranked second

west Conference choice who had 63 tackles, a sack, and three interceptions.

The other UT preseason All-America is defensive end Shane Dronett, a junior who had 10 sacks last season to go with 73 tackles. The Longhorn coaches believe he can be one of the best ever to play the position at Texas. Fellow all-SWC choice Santana Dotson of Baylor is another first-team pick. Dotson had nine tackles for losses last year and coach Grant Teaff said, "Santana is an outstanding player. He will play end and tackle this year because we want to get him in the best position to be free to use his talents." Colorado nose tackle Joel Steed and Washington tackle Steve Emtman round out the defensive front four. Steed was a unanimous all-Big Eight choice last season when he had 64 tackles and 7½ sacks. Emtman surprised observers by winning the Pac-10 co-Defensive Player of the Year award.

The linebacking corps is led by Clemson's Levon Kirkland, who won first-team all-Atlantic Coast Conference honors for the second straight year. Kirkland also was second-team All-America by AP and UPI and was one of five finalists for the Dick Butkus Award, the only underclassman in that balloting for the nation's top linebacker. Rushing the passer from his position outside, Kirkland had 10 tackles for 30 yards in losses and 18 quarterback pressures. The MVP in the 1989 Gator Bowl, he ranks seventh in school history with 13½ sacks.

The premier inside linebacker in the nation could be Michigan's Erick Anderson, who had 112 tackles in 1990 to lead the Wolverines for the third straight year. The only question about Anderson, who was all-Big Ten last season when he helped Michigan lead the league in rushing defense, is his shoulder, which he had scoped in the spring, causing him to miss offseason drills.

Another Big Ten player, Ohio State's Steve Tovar, also is a first-team selection. A hard-nosed inside linebacker, he helped the Buckeyes rank second in the league in scoring defense as he registered 125 tackles and was named all-conference by the coaches. He had 6½ tackles for losses and three sacks and

had 10 or more tackles nine times, including a career-high 14 against Iowa.

Jason Hanson of Washington State made our first-string All-America. He is the leading returning punter in the country (third last season with a 45.4-yard average).

In addition to Klingler, Duckett, and Royster on the second-team offense, the skill positions are manned by three seniors: wide receivers Rodney Blackshear of Texas Tech and Desmond Howard of Michigan and TCU tight end Kelly Blackwell. Blackshear was an all-SWC selection who was nicknamed "Hot Rod" after he averaged an NCAA-leading 22.1 yards per catch and scored nine touchdowns.

Howard was first-team all-Big Ten after leading the Wolverines with 63 catches for 1,025 yards and 11 touchdowns. He was also second in the nation with a 29.5-yard kickoff-return average, including a 95-yard TD return against Michigan State.

Blackwell was an all-SWC pick and the premier receiver among tight ends in the country with 64 catches, a school record. Coach Jim Wacker says Blackwell "runs with more determination after catching the ball" than anyone he has ever coached, a big reason the 6-2, 240-pounder had 832 yards receiving, including three 100-yard games.

Three more 300-pounders populate the second-team offensive line, topped by Washington's 6-7, 315-pound Lincoln Kennedy. It also includes Miami's Leon Searcy (6-3, 300), a three-year starter for the Hurricanes, and Houston senior Mike Gisler (6-4, 300). Gisler has not allowed a quarterback sack in 18 of the past 22 games he has started and graded out 90 percent or higher in 14 of those games the last two years. Baylor guard Monte Jones (6-2, 283) was an all-SWC choice last year, but is rated just ahead of teammate John Turnpaugh. The center is Florida senior Cal Dixon, an all-SEC selection and a three-time academic all-conference pick.

Houston place-kicker Roman Anderson, the son of former All-America quarterback Billy Anderson of Tulsa, has hit 113 PATs in a row and is just 39 points behind the all-time NCAA record of 393.

Anderson's teammate, cornerback Jerry Parks, led the nation in interceptions last season, with eight, and is on the second-team defense. Parks is a transfer from Oklahoma, which has its own defensive back, safety Jason Belser, on the team. An all-Big Eight selection, Belser led the OU defensive backs in tackles (66), had four interceptions, and was tops in the league in fumbles recovered (3) and passes broken up (9).

Ohio State junior Alonzo Spellman leads the second-team line. The 6-5, 265-pound end has started for two years for the Buckeyes, including one as a linebacker when he was a freshman. Oklahoma State's Stacey Satterwhite is a 6-6, 270-pound tackle who recorded 66 stops and made all-Big Eight. He also had five sacks, nine quarterback pressures, and six pass deflections. Texas's James Patton, like teammates Dronett and Gunn, was all-SWC and had 60 tackles and eight sacks last season. At the other end is Virginia's Chris Slade. Only a junior, he led the Cavaliers with seven sacks, two shy of the school record, while being named all-ACC.

FIRST TEAM

Offense

QB...Ty Detmer...Sr...BYU
RB...Glyn Milburn...Jr...Stanford
RB...Russell White...Soph...California
WR...Courtney Hawkins...Sr...Michigan State
WR...Patrick Rowe...Sr...San Diego State
TE...Derek Brown...Sr...Notre Dame
OL...Greg Skrepenak...Jr...Michigan
OL...Bob Whitfield...Jr...Stanford
OL...Ray Roberts...Sr...Virginia
OL...Mirko Jurkovic...Sr...Notre Dame
OL...Jay Leeuwenberg...Sr...Colorado
PK...Carlos Huerta...Sr...Miami

Defense

DL...Joel Steed...Sr...Colorado
DL...Shane Dronett...Jr...Texas
DL...Santana Dotson...Sr...Baylor
DL...Steve Emtman...Jr...Washington
LB...Levon Kirkland...Sr...Clemson
LB...Erick Anderson...Sr...Michigan
LB...Steve Tovar...Soph...Ohio State
DB...Ken Swilling...Sr...Georgia Tech
DB...Will White...Jr...Florida
DB...Lance Gunn...Jr...Texas
DB...Dale Carter...Sr...Tennessee
P...Jason Hanson...Sr...Washington St.

SECOND TEAM

Offense

QB...David Klingler...Sr...Houston
RB...Tico Duckett...Jr...Michigan State
RB...Mazio Royster...Jr...Southern Cal
WR...Rodney Blackshear...Sr...Texas Tech
WR...Desmond Howard...Sr...Michigan
TE...Kelly Blackwell...Sr...TCU
OL...Leon Searcy...Sr...Miami
OL...Mike Gisler...Sr...Houston
OL...Lincoln Kennedy...Jr...Washington
OL...Monte Jones...Sr...Baylor
OL...Cal Dixon...Sr...Florida
PK...Roman Anderson...Sr...Houston

Defense

DL...Chris Slade...Jr...Virginia
DL...Stacey Satterwhite...Sr...Oklahoma St.
DL...Alonzo Spellman...Jr...Ohio St.
DL...James Patton...Sr...Texas
LB...Darrin Smith...Jr...Miami
LB...Donald Jones...Jr...Washington
LB...Marvin Jones...Soph...Florida St.
DB...Terrell Buckley...Jr...Florida St.
DB...Darren Perry...Sr...Penn State
DB...Jerry Parks...Sr...Houston
DB...Jason Belser...Sr...Oklahoma
P...Craig Hentrich...Jr...Notre Dame

in the country in interceptions, with seven, including three against Alabama. He's only the second Gator soph ever to win All-America.

His SEC counterpart, Dale Carter of Tennessee, joins him on our list. Carter led the nation in kickoff returns (29.8-yard average) and ranked second in the league in interceptions (5) and punt returns (13.1).

The fourth defensive back chosen is Texas junior Lance Gunn, one of two Longhorns on the team. Gunn was a unanimous all-South-

The linebacking crew consists of the Smith and Jones boys. Miami's Darrin Smith had 105 tackles, including 17 against Notre Dame, and returned an interception 34 yards against Texas in the Cotton Bowl. Hurricane assistant coach Tommy Tuberville calls him "the most natural linebacker Miami has ever had." That is high praise. The Jones boys are Washington's Donald, all-Pac 10 in '90, and Florida State's Marvin, no relation, who had 133 tackles as a freshman last season.

Our remaining two defensive backs are Jones's teammate at FSU, junior Terrell Buckley, who scored four touchdowns last year (two on punt returns and two on interceptions), and Penn State senior Darren Perry, who had seven interceptions.

Notre Dame punter Craig Hentrich would have ranked fourth in the nation with his 44.9-yard average, but the Irish didn't punt enough for him to qualify.

HONORABLE MENTION

Offense

QB—Mark Brunell, Jr., Washington; Bobby Fuller, Sr., South Carolina; Marvin Graves, Soph., Syracuse; Elvis Grbac, Jr., Michigan; Darian Hagan, Sr., Colorado; Shawn Jones, Jr., Georgia Tech; Eric Hunter, Jr., Purdue; Andy Kelly, Sr., Tennessee; Troy Kopp, Jr., Pacific; Tommy Maddox, Soph., UCLA; Shane Matthews, Jr., Florida; Jason Palumbis, Sr., Stanford; Matt Rodgers, Sr., Iowa; Alex Van Pelt, Jr., Pittsburgh; Jason Verduzco, Jr., Illinois; Casey Weldon, Sr., Florida State; Stan White, Soph., Auburn
RB—Edgar Bennett, Sr., Florida State; Trevor Cobb, Jr., Rice; Butch Hadnot, Soph., Texas; Garrison Hearst, Soph., Georgia; Stephen McGuire, Jr., Miami; Robert Smith, Soph., Ohio State; Jeff Snyder, Jr., Hawaii; Siran Stacy, Sr., Alabama
WR—Tracy Good, Jr., Houston; Marcus Grant, Jr., Houston; Eric Henley, Sr., Rice; Todd Kinchen, Jr., LSU; Carl Pickens, Jr., Tennessee; Michael Smith, Sr., Kansas State; Terry Smith, Sr., Penn State; Lamar Thomas, Jr., Miami; Olanda Truitt, Jr., Pittsburgh
TE—Mark Chmura, Sr., Boston College; Todd Harrison, Sr., North Carolina State; John Henry Mills, Jr., Wake Forest; Johnny Mitchell, Soph., Nebraska
OL—Eugene Chung, Sr., Virginia Tech; Jeb Flesch, Sr., Clemson; Jim Johnson, Sr., Michigan State; Greg Lahr, Sr., Kentucky; Everett Lindsay, Jr., Mississippi; Russ McCullough, Sr., Missouri; John Ray, Sr., West Virginia; Tim Simpson, Sr., Illinois; John Turnpaugh, Sr., Baylor
PK—J.D. Carlson, Sr., Michigan; Dan Eichlof, Soph., Kansas; Clint Gwaltney, Sr., North Carolina; Todd Wright, Jr., Arkansas

Defense

DL—Marc Boutte, Sr., LSU; Keith Hamilton, Jr., Pittsburgh; Robin Jones, Sr., Baylor; Matt LaBounty, Sr., Oregon; George Rooks, Sr., Syracuse; Larry Webster, Sr., Maryland; George Williams, Sr., Notre Dame; Jeff Zgonia, Sr., Purdue
LB—Kurt Barber, Sr., Southern Cal; Greg Biekert, Jr., Colorado; Eric Blount, Jr., Houston; Joe Bowden, Sr., Oklahoma; Marco Coleman, Jr., Georgia Tech; Anthony Davis, Sr., Utah; Mark D'Onofrio, Sr., Penn State; Earnest Fields, Sr., Tennessee; Ron George, Jr., Stanford; Keith Goganious, Sr., Penn State; Steve Grant, Sr., West Virginia; Dwight Hollier, Sr., North Carolina; Ricardo McDonald, Sr., Pittsburgh; Santo Stephens, Sr., Temple; John Sullins, Sr., Alabama; Ed Sutter, Sr., Northwestern
DB—Ray Buchanan, Jr., Louisville; Matt Darby, Sr., UCLA; Deon Figures, Jr., Colorado; Chauncey Godwin, Sr., Mississippi; Derriel McCorvey, Jr., LSU; Marquez Pope, Sr., Fresno State; Marlon Primous, Sr., Illinois; Damien Russell, Sr., Virginia Tech; Erwin Sampson, Sr., Duke; Tracy Saul, Jr., Texas Tech; Kevin Smith, Sr., Texas A&M; Phillip Sparks, Sr., Arizona State; Paul Wallace, Jr., Wyoming; Darryl Williams, Jr., Miami
P—Jason Christ, Sr., Air Force; David Lawrence, Jr., Vanderbilt; Scott McAlister, Sr., North Carolina; Mike Riley, Sr., Mississippi State; Trent Thompson, Sr., Temple; Klaus Wilmsmeyer, Sr., Louisville



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VISITORS ALWAYS COMMENT on the sawmill at Jack Daniel's and wonder why on earth we need one.

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PLAYOFF & SUPER BOWL RECAP

WILD CARD GAMES

Chicago 16, New Orleans 6
Washington 20, Philadelphia 6
Cincinnati 41, Houston 14
Miami 17, Kansas City 16

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS

N.Y. Giants 31, Chicago 3
San Francisco 28, Washington 10
Buffalo 44, Miami 34
L.A. Raiders 20, Cincinnati 10

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

N.Y. Giants 15, San Francisco 13
Buffalo 51, L.A. Raiders 3

SUPER BOWL XXV

N.Y. Giants 20, Buffalo 19

1990 NFL FINAL STANDINGS

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Eastern Division						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	13	3	0	.813	428	263
Miami	12	4	0	.750	336	242
Indianapolis	7	9	0	.438	281	353
N.Y. Jets	6	10	0	.375	295	345
New England	1	15	0	.063	181	446

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Cincinnati	9	7	0	.563	360	352
Houston	9	7	0	.563	405	307
Pittsburgh	9	7	0	.563	292	240
Cleveland	3	13	0	.188	228	462

Western Division

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
L.A. Raiders	12	4	0	.750	337	268
Kansas City	11	5	0	.688	369	257
Seattle	9	7	0	.563	306	286
San Diego	6	10	0	.375	315	281
Denver	5	11	0	.313	331	374

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Eastern Division						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	13	3	0	.813	335	211
Philadelphia	10	6	0	.625	396	299
Washington	10	6	0	.625	381	301
Dallas	7	9	0	.438	244	308
Phoenix	5	11	0	.313	258	396

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Chicago	11	5	0	.688	348	280
Tampa Bay	6	10	0	.375	264	367
Green Bay	6	10	0	.375	271	347
Detroit	6	10	0	.375	373	413
Minnesota	6	10	0	.375	351	326

Western Division

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	14	2	0	.875	353	239
New Orleans	8	8	0	.500	274	275
L.A. Rams	5	11	0	.313	345	412
Atlanta	5	11	0	.313	348	365

NFC WILD CARD GAME

New Orleans	0	3	0	0	3	— 6
Chicago	3	7	0	3	3	— 16

First Quarter

Chicago: FG Butler 19, 4:54

Second Quarter

Chicago: Thornton 18 pass from Tomczak (Butler kick), 1:51
New Orleans: FG Andersen 47, 13:22

Third Quarter

Chicago: FG Butler 22, 8:31

Fourth Quarter

New Orleans: FG Andersen 38, 9:08

Chicago: FG Butler 21, 12:13

Attendance: 60,767

Team Statistics

	New Orleans	Chicago
First downs	11	18
Rushes-yards	18-65	43-189
Passing yards	128	176
Return yards	2	49
Comp-Att-Int	11-34-3	13-26-0
Sacked-yards lost	2-25	2-12
Punts	3-30	2-28
Fumbles-lost	1-0	2-1
Penalties-yards	2-10	7-57
Time of possession	22:25	37:35

Individual Statistics

Rushing: New Orleans, Fenerty 8-29, Fourcade 2-13, Hilliard 4-13, Heyward 4-10; Chicago, Anderson 27-102, Muster 12-71, Tomczak 2-8, Green 2-8.
Passing: New Orleans, Walsh 6-16-1-74, Fourcade 5-18-2-79; Chicago, Tomczak 12-25-0-166, Anderson 1-1-0-22.
Receiving: New Orleans, Fenerty 4-22, Martin 2-47, Scales 1-31, Tice 1-19, Brenner 1-17, Perriman 1-11, Turner 1-6; Chicago, Anderson 4-42, Thornton 2-43, Gentry 2-41, Morris 2-28, Muster 2-21, Davis 1-13.
Missed Field Goals: New Orleans, Andersen 41; Chicago, Butler 36.

NFC WILD CARD GAME

Washington	0	10	10	0	— 20
Philadelphia	3	3	0	0	— 6

First Quarter

Philadelphia: FG Ruzek 37, 8:29

Second Quarter

Philadelphia: FG Ruzek 28, 4:42

Washington: Monk 16 pass from Rypien (Lohmiller kick), 9:06

Washington: FG Lohmiller 20, 14:56

Third Quarter

Washington: FG Lohmiller 19, 12:31

Washington: Clark 3 pass from Rypien (Lohmiller kick), 14:57

Attendance: 65,287

Team Statistics

	Washington	Philadelphia
First downs	15	16
Rushes-yards	35-93	28-148
Passing yards	206	170
Return yards	36	45
Comp-Att-Int	15-31-1	15-32-1
Sacked-yards lost	5-35	0-0
Punts	9-37	7-39
Fumbles-lost	2-1	2-2
Penalties-yards	3-23	4-40
Time of possession	30:23	29:37

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Washington, Byner 18-49, Riggs 14-45, R. Sanders 1-3, Rypien 2-(-4), Philadelphia, Cunningham 7-80, Sherman 17-53, T. Sanders 2-12, Toney 2-3.

Passing: Washington, Rypien 15-31-1-206; Philadelphia, Cunningham 15-29-1-205, McMahon 0-3-0-0.

Receiving: Washington, Byner 7-77, Clark 4-63, Monk 2-44, R. Sanders 2-22; Philadelphia, Keith Jackson 5-116, T. Sanders 5-47, Byars 2-18, Sherman 2-15, Williams 1-9.

AFC WILD CARD GAME

Kansas City	3	7	6	0	— 16
Miami	0	3	0	0	— 17

First Quarter

Kansas City: FG Lowery 27, 9:56

Second Quarter

Miami: FG Stoyanovich 58, :05

Kansas City: S. Paige 26 pass from DeBerg (Lowery kick), 13:06

Third Quarter

Kansas City: FG Lowery 25, 10:14

Kansas City: FG Lowery 38, 12:05

Fourth Quarter

Miami: T. Paige 1 pass from Marino (Stoyanovich kick), 2:42

Miami: Clayton 12 pass from Marino (Stoyanovich kick), 11:32

Attendance: 67,276

Team Statistics

	Kansas City	Miami
First downs	15	23
Rushes-yards	24-103	32-98
Passing yards	264	213
Return yards	16	0
Comp-Att-Int	17-30-1	19-30-0
Sacked-yards lost	1-5	2-8
Punts	4-35	3-40
Fumbles-lost	0-0	2-2
Penalties-yards	4-35	2-22
Time of possession	25:44	34:16

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Kansas City, Okoye 13-83, Word 9-13, McNair 2-7; Miami, S. Smith 20-82, Logan 7-17, T. Paige 1-2, Marino 4-(-3).

Passing: Kansas City, DeBerg 17-30-1-269; Miami, Marino 19-30-0-221.

Receiving: Kansas City, S. Paige 8-142, McNair 3-22, Harry 2-59, Roberts 2-26, R. Thomas 1-15, Hayes 1-5; Miami, Clayton 5-66, T. Paige 5-30, Duper 3-36, Edmunds 2-49, S. Smith 2-22, Jensen 1-11, Martin 1-7.
Missed Field Goals: Kansas City, Lowery 52; Miami, Stoyanovich 57.

continued

PLAYOFF & SUPER BOWL RECAP

AFC WILD CARD GAME

Houston 0..... 0..... 7..... 7 —14
Cincinnati..... 10... 10... 14..... 7 —41

First Quarter

Cincinnati: Woods 1 run (Breech kick), 6:24
Cincinnati: FG Breech 27, 13:50

Second Quarter

Cincinnati: Green 2 pass from Esiason
(Breech kick), 5:42

Cincinnati: FG Breech 30, 14:17

Third Quarter

Cincinnati: Ball 3 run (Breech kick), 3:26
Cincinnati: Esiason 10 run (Breech kick), 3:51
Houston: Givins 16 pass from Carlson (Garcia kick), 9:45

Fourth Quarter

Cincinnati: Kattus 9 pass from Esiason
(Breech kick), :51

Houston: Givins 5 pass from Carlson (Garcia kick), 8:01

Attendance: 60,012

Team Statistics

	Houston	Cincinnati
First downs	13.....	24.....
Rushes-yards	13-67.....	44-187.....
Passing yards	159.....	152.....
Return yards	19.....	85.....
Comp-Att-Int.....	16-33-1.....	15-25-0.....
Sacked-yards lost.....	1-6.....	0-0.....
Punts.....	6-43.....	3-45.....
Fumbles-lost.....	2-1.....	1-0.....
Penalties-yards.....	5-33.....	4-40.....
Time of possession.....	20:15.....	39:45.....

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Houston, Pinkett 5-43, Carlson 4-22, White 4-2; Cincinnati, Esiason 5-57, Green 11-55, Ball 7-33, Brooks 6-17, Jennings 6-16, Woods 6-11, Wilhelm 3(-)-2.

Passing: Houston, Carlson 16-33-1-165; Cincinnati, Esiason 14-20-0-150, Wilhelm 1-5-0-12.

Receiving: Houston, Givins 6-60, Harris 4-37, Jeffries 2-33, Duncan 1-15, Pinkett 1-10, White 1-5, Hill 1-5; Cincinnati, Holman 2-51, McGee 2-23, Kattus 2-19, Jennings 2-15, Green 2-15, Brown 2-14, Woods 2-13, Barber 1-12.

NFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF

Chicago..... 0..... 3..... 0..... 0 —3
N.Y. Giants..... 10..... 7..... 7..... 7 —31

First Quarter

New York: FG Bahr 46, 5:40

New York: Baker 21 pass from Hostetler (Bahr kick), 13:56

Second Quarter

Chicago: FG Butler 33, 8:43

New York: Cross 5 pass from Hostetler (Bahr kick), 14:27

Third Quarter

New York: Hostetler 3 run (Bahr kick), 4:19

Fourth Quarter

New York: Carthon 1 run (Bahr kick), 14:53

Attendance: 77,025

Team Statistics

	Chicago	New York
First downs	11.....	23.....
Rushes-yards	16-27.....	48-194.....
Passing yards	205.....	94.....
Return yards	3.....	61.....
Comp-Att-Int.....	17-36-2.....	10-17-0.....
Sacked-yards lost.....	0-0.....	3-18.....
Punts.....	2-42.....	3-41.....

Fumbles-lost 0-0..... 1-1
Penalties-yards 4-30..... 2-15
Time of possession..... 21:38..... 38:22

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Chicago, Anderson 12-19, Muster 4-8; New York, Anderson 21-80, Hostetler 6-43, Tillman 9-31, Carthon 8-19, Meggett 2-18, Hampton 2-3.

Passing: Chicago, Tomczak 17-36-2-205; New York, Hostetler 10-17-0-112.

Receiving: Chicago, Anderson 4-23, Davis 3-76, Thornton 3-28, Muster 3-21, Gentry 2-23, Morris 1-24, Kozlowski 1-10; New York, Baker 3-58, Bavaro 3-25, Ingram 1-12, Mrosko 1-6, Anderson 1-6, Cross 1-5.

NFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF

Washington..... 10..... 0..... 0..... 0 —10
San Francisco..... 7..... 14..... 0..... 7 —28

First Quarter

Washington: Monk 31 pass from Rypien
(Lohmiller kick), 5:48

San Francisco: Rathman 1 run (Cofer kick), 10:06

Washington: FG Lohmiller 44, 14:24

Second Quarter

San Francisco: Rice 10 pass from Montana
(Cofer kick), 3:52

San Francisco: Sherrard 8 pass from Montana
(Cofer kick), 8:29

Fourth Quarter

San Francisco: M. Carter 61 interception
return (Cofer kick), 14:03.

Attendance: 65,292

Team Statistics

	Washington	San Francisco
First downs	25.....	20.....
Rushes-yards	24-80.....	24-46.....
Passing yards	361.....	292.....
Return yards	35.....	57.....
Comp-Att-Int.....	27-48-3.....	23-32-1.....
Sacked-yards lost.....	0-0.....	2-10.....
Punts.....	4-33.....	5-42.....
Fumbles-lost.....	0-0.....	0-0.....
Penalties-yards.....	1-15.....	4-25.....
Time of possession.....	29:54.....	30:06.....

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Washington, Byner 12-15, Riggs 10-18, Monk 1-9, Mitchell 1-2; San Francisco, Craig 12-20, Sydney 7-19, Rathman 4-6, Montana 1-1.

Passing: Washington, Rypien 27-48-3-361; San Francisco, Montana 22-31-1-274, Sydney 1-1-0-28, Young 0-0-0-0.

Receiving: Washington, Monk 10-163, Clark 6-63, Sanders 4-78, Mitchell 3-25, Hobbs 1-13, Warren 1-11, Riggs 1-8, Byner 1-0; San Francisco, Rice 6-68, Jones 4-103, Sydney 4-10, Craig 3-54, Sherrard 3-16, Taylor 2-38, Williams 1-13.

AFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF

Cincinnati..... 0..... 3..... 0..... 7 —10
L.A. Raiders..... 0..... 7..... 3..... 10 —20

Second Quarter

Cincinnati: FG Breech 27, 2:53

Los Angeles: Fernandez 13 pass from
Schroeder (Jaeger kick), 7:31

Third Quarter

Los Angeles: FG Jaeger 49, 9:19

Fourth Quarter

Cincinnati: Jennings 8 pass from Esiason
(Breech kick), 3:11

Los Angeles: Horton 41 pass from Schroeder
(Jaeger kick), 6:08

Los Angeles: FG Jaeger 25, 14:41
Attendance—92,045

Team Statistics

	Cincinnati	Los Angeles
First downs	12.....	20.....
Rushes-yards	29-124.....	32-235.....
Passing yards	58.....	154.....
Return yards	11.....	40.....
Comp-Att-Int.....	8-15-0.....	11-21-1.....
Sacked-yards lost.....	4-46.....	3-18.....
Punts.....	5-52.....	2-40.....
Fumbles-lost.....	1-0.....	0-0.....
Penalties-yards.....	1-5.....	0-0.....
Time of possession.....	28:17.....	31:43.....

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Cincinnati, Woods 11-73, Brooks 11-26, Ball 5-14, Esiason 2-11; Los Angeles, Allen 21-140, Jackson 6-77, Smith 5-18.

Passing: Cincinnati, Esiason 8-15-0-104; Los Angeles, Schroeder 11-21-1-172.

Receiving: Cincinnati, Holman 2-51, Brown 2-18, Brooks 1-22, Jennings 1-8, Woods 1-5, McGee 1-0; Los Angeles, Horton 4-77, T. Brown 3-42, Fernandez 2-24, Allen 1-24, Smith 1-5.

AFC DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF

Miami..... 3... 14... 3... 14 —34
Buffalo..... 13... 14... 3... 14 —44

First Quarter

Buffalo: Reed 40 pass from Kelly (Norwood kick), 1:54

Miami: FG Stoyanovich 49, 8:00

Buffalo: FG Norwood 24, 10:11

Buffalo: FG Norwood 22, 14:09

Second Quarter

Buffalo: Thomas 5 run (Norwood kick), 2:56

Miami: Duper 64 pass from Marino

(Stoyanovich kick), 5:06

Buffalo: Lofton 13 pass from Kelly (Norwood kick), 9:49

Miami: Marino 2 run (Stoyanovich kick), 14:39

Third Quarter

Miami: FG Stoyanovich 22, 4:57

Buffalo: FG Norwood 28, 13:22

Fourth Quarter

Miami: Foster 2 pass from Marino
(Stoyanovich kick), :55

Buffalo: Thomas 5 run (Norwood kick), 4:32

Buffalo: Reed 26 pass from Kelly (Norwood kick), 5:08

Miami: Martin 8 pass from Marino
(Stoyanovich kick), 13:45

Attendance: 77,087

Team Statistics

	Miami	Buffalo
First downs	24.....	24.....
Rushes-yards	27-107.....	37-154.....
Passing yards	323.....	339.....
Return yards	0.....	26.....
Comp-Att-Int.....	23-49-2.....	19-29-1.....
Sacked-yards lost.....	0-0.....	0-0.....
Punts.....	2-40.....	1-47.....
Fumbles-lost.....	1-1.....	3-1.....
Penalties-yards.....	4-32.....	4-30.....
Time of possession.....	32:26.....	27:34.....

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Miami, Smith 21-99, Logan 5-6, Marino 1-2; Buffalo, Thomas 32-117, Kelly 5-37.

Passing: Miami, Marino 23-49-2-323; Buffalo, Kelly 19-29-1-339.

Receiving: Miami, Clayton 4-82, Martin 4-44, Jensen 4-38, Duper 3-113, Edmonds 3-21, Logan 2-8, Smith 1-9, Paige 1-6, Foster 1-2; Buffalo, Lofton 7-149, Reed 4-122, Thomas 3-38, McKeller 3-15, Edwards 1-12, Davis 1-3.

NFC CHAMPIONSHIP

New York..... 3..... 3..... 3..... 6 — 15
San Francisco..... 3..... 3..... 7..... 0 — 13

First Quarter

San Francisco: FG Cofer 47, 5:01

New York: FG Bahr 28, 12:19

Second Quarter

New York: FG Bahr 42, 14:00

San Francisco: FG Cofer 35, 14:57

Third Quarter

San Francisco: Taylor 61 pass from Montana (Cofer kick), 4:32

New York: FG Bahr 46, 10:35

Fourth Quarter

New York: FG Bahr 38, 9:13

New York: FG Bahr 42, 15:00

Attendance: 65,750

Team Statistics

	New York	San Francisco
First downs	20.....	13
Rushes-yards	36-152.....	11-39
Passing yards	159.....	201
Return yards	81.....	125
Comp-Att-Int.....	15-29-0.....	19-27-0
Sacked-yards lost.....	3-17.....	3-14
Punts.....	3-41.....	5-40
Fumbles-lost.....	0-0.....	3-1
Penalties-yards.....	5-45.....	9-63
Time of possession.....	38:59.....	21:01

Individual Statistics

Rushing: New York, Anderson 20-67, Meggett 10-36, Reasons 1-30, Hostetler 3-11, Carthon 2-8; San Francisco, Craig 8-26, Montana 2-9, Rathman 1-4.

Passing: New York, Hostetler 15-27-0-176, Meggett 0-1-0-0, Cavanaugh 0-1-0-0; San Francisco, Montana 18-26-0-190, Young 1-1-0-25.

Receiving: New York, Ingram 5-82, Bavaro 5-54, Baker 2-22, Meggett 2-15, Anderson 1-3; San Francisco, Rice 5-54, Rathman 4-16, Jones 3-46, Craig 3-16, Taylor 2-75, Sherrard 2-8.

AFC CHAMPIONSHIP

Los Angeles..... 3..... 0..... 0..... 0 — 3
Buffalo..... 21..... 20..... 0..... 10 — 51

First Quarter

Buffalo: Lofton 13 pass from Kelly (Norwood kick), 3:30

Los Angeles: FG Jaeger 41, 5:49

Buffalo: Thomas 12 run (Norwood kick), 6:59

Buffalo: Talley 27 interception return (Norwood kick), 11:51

Second Quarter

Buffalo: David 1 run (kick failed), 5:58

Buffalo: Davis 3 run (Norwood kick), 11:42

Buffalo: Lofton 8 pass from Kelly (Norwood kick), 13:54

Fourth Quarter

Buffalo: Davis 1 run (Norwood kick), :02

Buffalo: FG Norwood 39, 2:46

Attendance: 80,324

Team Statistics

	Los Angeles	Buffalo
First downs	21.....	30
Rushes-yards	28-151.....	46-202
Passing yards	169.....	300
Return yards	141.....	173
Comp-Att-Int.....	15-39-6.....	17-23-1
Sacked-yards lost.....	1-7.....	0-0
Punts.....	3-40.....	2-38
Fumbles-lost.....	1-1.....	3-0
Penalties-yards.....	2-28.....	6-32
Time of possession.....	28:25.....	31:35

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Los Angeles, Bell 5-36, Evans 4-33, Schroeder 4-33, Allen 10-26, Smith 4-19, McCallum 1-4; Buffalo, Thomas 25-138, Gardner 1-23, Davis 10-21, Kelly 2-12, Mueller 3-6, Smith 3-3, Reich 2-(-1).

Passing: Los Angeles, Schroeder 13-31-5-150, Evans 2-8-1-26; Buffalo, Kelly 17-23-1-300, Reich 0-0-0-0.

Receiving: Los Angeles, Fernandez 4-57, Horton 3-25, Gault 2-32, Bell 2-26, Allen 2-19, Brown 2-17; Buffalo, Lofton 5-113, Thomas 5-61, McKeller 3-44, Tasker 2-53, Reed 2-29.

SUPER BOWL XXV

At Tampa, FL, January 27
Buffalo..... 3..... 9..... 0..... 7 — 19
New York..... 3..... 7..... 7..... 3 — 20

First Quarter

New York: FG Bahr 28, 7:46

Buffalo: FG Norwood 23, 9:09

Second Quarter

Buffalo: Smith 1 run (Norwood kick), 2:30

Buffalo: Safety, Hostetler tackled in end zone, 6:33

New York: Baker 14 pass from Hostetler (Bahr kick), 14:35

Third Quarter

New York: Anderson 1 run (Bahr kick), 9:29

Fourth Quarter

Buffalo: Thomas 31 run (Norwood kick), :08

New York: FG Bahr 21, 7:40

Attendance: 73,813

Team Statistics

	Buffalo	New York
First downs	18	24
Rushes-yards	25-166	39-172
Passing yards	205	214
Return yards	114	85
Comp-Att-Int.....	18-30-0	20-32-0
Sacked-yards lost.....	1-7	2-8
Punts.....	6-38.8	4-43.8
Fumbles-lost.....	1-0	0-0
Penalties-yards.....	5-35	5-31
Time of possession.....	19:27	40:33

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Buffalo, Thomas 15-135, Kelly 6-23, Davis 2-4, Mueller 1-3, Smith 1-1; New York, Anderson 21-102, Meggett 9-48, Carthon 3-12, Hostetler 6-10.

Passing: Buffalo, Kelly 18-30-0-212; New York, Hostetler 20-32-0-222.

Receiving: Buffalo, Reed 8-62, Thomas 5-55, Davis 2-23, McKeller 2-11, Lofton 1-61; New York, Ingram 5-74, Bavaro 5-50, Cross 4-39, Baker 2-31, Meggett 2-18, Anderson 1-7, Carthon 1-3.

PAST SUPER BOWLS

1967... Green Bay 35, Kansas City 10
1968... Green Bay 33, Oakland 14
1969... New York Jets 16, Baltimore 7
1970... Kansas City 23, Minnesota 7
1971... Baltimore 16, Dallas 13
1972... Dallas 24, Miami 3
1973... Miami 14, Washington 7
1974... Miami 24, Minnesota 7
1975... Pittsburgh 16, Minnesota 6
1976... Pittsburgh 21, Dallas 17
1977... Oakland 32, Minnesota 14
1978... Dallas 27, Denver 10
1979... Pittsburgh 35, Dallas 31
1980... Pittsburgh 31, Los Angeles Rams 19
1981... Oakland 27, Philadelphia 10
1982... San Francisco 26, Cincinnati 21
1983... Washington 27, Miami 17
1984... Los Angeles Raiders 38, Washington 9
1985... San Francisco 38, Miami 16
1986... Chicago 46, New England 10
1987... New York Giants 39, Denver 20
1988... Washington 42, Denver 10
1989... San Francisco 20, Cincinnati 16
1990... San Francisco 55, Denver 10
1991... New York Giants 20, Buffalo 19

SUPER BOWL MVPs

1967... Bart Starr, Green Bay Packers
1968... Bart Starr, Green Bay Packers
1969... Joe Namath, New York Jets
1970... Len Dawson, Kansas City Chiefs
1971... Chuck Howley, Dallas Cowboys
1972... Roger Staubach, Dallas Cowboys
1973... Jake Scott, Miami Dolphins
1974... Larry Csonka, Miami Dolphins
1975... Franco Harris, Pittsburgh Steelers
1976... Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh Steelers
1977... Fred Biletnikoff, Oakland Raiders
1978... Randy White and Harvey Martin, Dallas Cowboys
1979... Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh Steelers
1980... Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh Steelers
1981... Jim Plunkett, Oakland Raiders
1982... Joe Montana, San Francisco 49ers
1983... John Riggins, Washington Redskins
1984... Marcus Allen, Los Angeles Raiders
1985... Joe Montana, San Francisco 49ers
1986... Richard Dent, Chicago Bears
1987... Phil Simms, New York Giants
1988... Doug Williams, Washington Redskins
1989... Jerry Rice, San Francisco 49ers
1990... Joe Montana, San Francisco 49ers
1991... Otis Anderson, New York Giants

CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

by **RICK MATSUMOTO**

TORONTO STAR

PREDICTIONS

EASTERN DIVISION

1. Toronto Argonauts
2. Winnipeg Blue Bombers
3. Ottawa Rough Riders
4. Hamilton Tiger-Cats

WESTERN DIVISION

1. Edmonton Eskimos
2. Calgary Stampeders
3. Saskatchewan Roughriders
4. B.C. Lions

***Rocket Ismail's
touchdown in
Toronto
was a blast
for the CFL.***

● Hollywood has come to the Canadian Football League. And with a terrific bang. Like celluloid heroes riding to the rescue, the Three Amigos—Los Angeles Kings' owner Bruce McNall, hockey superstar Wayne Gretzky, and actor John Candy—arrived on the scene from Tinseltown this winter to purchase the flagging Toronto Argonauts from Harry Ornest.

Right from the beginning, McNall let it be known that he would not be an absentee owner. No, he would devote the same personal attention to the Argos that he does to the Kings of the National Hockey League.

He brought that point home on the eve of the National Football League draft when, in of all places, a hockey rink, McNall signed Notre Dame's electrifying Raghib (Rocket) Ismail to a mind-boggling contract which can earn the 21-year-old receiver and kick-returner as much as \$26 million. The first \$14 million is guaranteed. Another \$4 million in endorsements is also secured. How much of the remaining \$8 million the Rocket earns will depend on factors including how many fans are attracted to the SkyDome.

The entire load of improving on last year's average attendance of 33,000 won't be placed on Ismail's 5-foot-11, 175-pound frame. McNall understands that no individual can make a team a winner on the field or at the box office. He does understand marketing, however, especially in a highly competitive sports and entertainment scene such as Toronto or Los Angeles. Ismail will simply be a catalyst for a powerful marketing and promotional campaign intent on making Torontonians believe they must attend an Argo game. That's a technique which Ornest refused to believe was vital for the success of his team. As a result, even a move to the opulent SkyDome in 1989 did little to rekindle the interest of fans who had drifted away from the Argos and toward the baseball Blue Jays during the 1980s.

The failure of the Argos to attract more fans affected more than Ornest's wallet. With more than a quarter of the country's total population living in southern Ontario, interest in the Argonauts, or the lack of it, has had a vital effect on the entire league. It translated into reduced interest among prospective sponsors and the television networks and the result was a drop in television revenue to \$650,000 per club in the last two-year pact. However, the arrival of the McNall group has renewed optimism that the CFL will again become an attractive advertising vehicle and that the league's TV revenue will climb back over the \$1 million per club level. McNall, the coin collector turned sports entrepreneur, will be the majority owner of the Argos, holding 60 percent of the club, which the trio reportedly bought for \$5 million. Gretzky, who grew up in Brantford, Ontario, 70 miles west of Toronto, and Candy, the Toronto-born comedian-actor, will each be 20 percent owners.

The impact of the sale to McNall and cohorts was felt immediately. A press conference announcing the purchase attracted one of the largest media gatherings to attend an Argo function since former Green Bay Packer

great Forrest Gregg came north to coach the Boatmen in 1979. McNall, who, with the help of Gretzky, turned the Kings into an instant box-office hit in the hockey hinterlands of southern California, using a wide-ranging marketing program, intends to apply the same formula in Toronto. Besides a marketing blitz, he announced he would lift the blackout of Argo home games, long a sore point with both television sponsors and fans. That proved an immediate hit with sponsors, who suddenly saw the opportunity to send their messages to the largest market in the country nine more times each season. And with the dramatic signing of Ismail, the Argos and the CFL were making headlines not only in Canada, but in the U.S. as well.

Despite all the enthusiasm, the new ownership cautioned against overoptimism. "We're not a cure-all for all of the [CFL's] problems," Gretzky said. "We feel we're a small part of the puzzle. But over the last couple of years, the league seems to be coming back. It's getting stronger and hopefully we can add to that. I'm excited and proud to be a part of the league."

Gretzky feels the Argos can grab their share of the Toronto sports market in the same fashion as the Kings earned their share in the tough Los Angeles environment. "Let's face it, the Kings will never be the Lakers [and] we're never going to be the Dodgers. But there's a place there for us and the people are excited about hockey. The same can happen here. I don't expect the Argos ever to be the Blue Jays, but I believe there's a [football] following here and we can build on that."

"They will be great credibility builders," said Saskatchewan Roughriders president Phil Kershaw. "As a result, more high-profile people will become involved in the league. The CFL has been dying in southern Ontario. People were talking about going to see the Buffalo Bills—a two-hour drive away—instead of the Argos or the Tiger-Cats. But with the arrival of these guys, I see a reversal in that trend."

While the Argos have spun their wheels, several of the other teams have shown a mild resurgence in attendance over the past two years. Overall attendance last year was 1,919,890, an increase of 98,812 fans over 1989. The average attendance per game was 26,665, an improvement of 1,039 customers per game. Those increases left the Saskatchewan Roughriders, Winnipeg Blue Bombers, and Edmonton Eskimos all showing a profit at year's end. The Argos were at or near the break-even point, as were the Calgary Stampeders and Ottawa Rough Riders, although the latter two clubs showed significant losses after servicing their substantial debts. Only the B.C. Lions and the Hamilton Tiger-Cats lost money, but since both clubs are privately owned, neither divulged its exact financial status. However, the Lions reportedly lost more than \$1 million and the Ticats probably weren't far behind.

The increases would have been greater and the losses less except for the Grey Cup game in Vancouver, which was a financial disaster. While commissioner Don Crump was merrily projecting ticket sales of 56,000 just

days before the game, actually sales proved to be closer to 44,000, and fewer than 30,000 seats were actually occupied in B.C. Place Stadium as Winnipeg thrashed Edmonton. The attendance figure—whether you count tickets or bodies—was the lowest for a Grey Cup since 1975, when the game was held in Calgary's McMahon Stadium, which had a capacity of just over 32,000. Ticket prices which hit \$100 for the first time were blamed by some for the huge drop in sales, but others saw it as just another example of the general lack of interest in the CFL.

This year, the league is taking the game to Winnipeg, which many see as akin to the NFL staging the Super Bowl in Green Bay. But Winnipeg, which has never hosted the championship, is guaranteeing a sellout in its expanded stadium. It's a commitment it must fulfill for the CFL needs a successful Grey Cup game to rebuff yet another attack on its existence.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

TORONTO ARGONAUTS

(10-8) Having a Rocket land in your locker room is an explosive way to start out as head coach. Adam Rita awoke to the news on April 21 that his new boss, Bruce McNall, signed Notre Dame star Raghbi (Rocket) Ismail to a four-year contract worth at least \$4.5 million per season. Ismail had rejected the overtures of the Dallas Cowboys, which had the No. 1 pick in the National Football League draft.

While landing a player of Ismail's quality would cause any coach to do a jig on his clipboard, Rita, a native of Hawaii, would have been just as ebullient at the thought of going into his first season as a head coach with a healthy quarterbacking corps. That's a luxury he didn't have in '90, when he was the Argos' offensive coordinator under Don Matthews, who abandoned ship and joined the Orlando Thunder of the new World League of American Football as its coach.

Rita lost his ace quarterback, Matt Dunigan (Louisiana Tech), midway through the third game of last season. That was the start of an epidemic of injuries to the club's quarterbacks, which saw Dunigan sidelined on three

separate occasions and backups John Congemi (Pittsburgh) and Rickey Foggie (Minnesota) also spend their share of time in sick bay. The situation was so bad by playoff time that the Argos traveled to the Eastern finals in Winnipeg with five quarterbacks. They started Congemi, but promptly lost him early in the game to a hand injury. That left it up to veteran Tom Porras (Washington), who was brought back after being cut at the end of training camp, to finish the game. And yet the Bombers needed a last-second field goal to beat the Argos and advance to the Grey Cup.

Despite the beating taken by the quarterbacks, the Argos were the CFL's most exciting team. Their "shoot-out-the-lights" offense scored a league-record 689 points, an average of 38.3 per game. And the man credited with being the architect of that offense was Rita, who had previously been the mastermind behind Matthews' successful teams in B.C. Now he's the man in charge, and he's promising to shoot out "the rest of the lights."

The task of executing Rita's plan goes to a healthy Dunigan, whose injured right knee and left hamstring have responded to surgery and rest. Should the injury bug find Dunigan again, the relief job will fall to Foggie, Congemi having been dealt to Ottawa in the off-season. Dunigan's key target will of course be Ismail. But to keep Ismail effective, Dunigan will still have to rely on his other offensive assets. That means slotback Darrell Smith (Central State), who equaled a CFL record last season with 20 touchdowns, including 18 via receptions, and record-setting running back Mike "Pinball" Clemons (William and Mary), who established a pro football all-purpose mark of 3,300 yards, will continue to see a lot of the ball. Ex-Buffalo Bill Trumaine Johnson and veteran Jeff Boyd (Cal State-Fullerton) will vie for the spot opposite Ismail.

The re-signing of tackle Chris Schultz (Arizona), the former Dallas Cowboy, keeps the veteran offensive line intact. It includes perennial all-star Dan Ferrone and center Ian Beckstead (Richmond), who decided against retiring after McNall purchased the team.

On defense the Argos desperately need a rush end to go along with all-star Harold Hallman (Auburn) and the steady Rodney Harding (Oklahoma State). They might have acquired that man in rookie Leonard Johnson (Georgia Military), who was obtained in the trade which sent Congemi to Ottawa. James Parker (Wake Forest), once one of the most feared pass rushers in the league, has slowed down at age 33 and could find himself being challenged for his position by Johnson. Middle linebacker Chris Gaines (Vanderbilt) tore up his knee late last year and he'll come under scrutiny at camp. All-star Reggie Pleasant (Clemson) anchors the secondary, which includes Ed Berry (Utah State) and all-league Don Wilson (North Carolina State).

Toronto also reacquired place-kicker Dean Dorsey in the Congemi trade as insurance for the possible loss of Lance Chomyc, who was seeking work in the NFL. Hank Ilesic returned to the Argos after failing to hang onto an NFL job and he'll supply the punting.

1990 CFL FINAL STANDINGS

EASTERN DIVISION	w	l	t	pts	off	def
Winnipeg	12	6	0	24	472	398
Toronto	10	8	0	20	689	538
Ottawa	7	11	0	14	540	602
Hamilton	6	12	0	12	476	628
WESTERN DIVISION	w	l	t	pts	off	def
Calgary	11	6	1	23	588	566
Edmonton	10	8	0	20	612	510
Saskatchewan	9	9	0	18	557	592
British Columbia	6	11	1	13	520	620

DIVISION SEMIFINALS

Toronto 34 • Ottawa 25
Edmonton 43 • Saskatchewan 27

DIVISION FINALS

Winnipeg 20 • Toronto 17
Edmonton 43 • Calgary 23

GREY CUP

Winnipeg 50 • Edmonton 11

WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS

(12-6) One thing is certain with the Blue Bombers this season: If they should win the Grey Cup again, Mike Riley won't quit as head coach. The likable Riley, whose only fault seems to be he doesn't know exactly where he wants to work, resigned as the Bombers' field boss for the second time in three years after guiding the club to a 50-11 strafing of the Edmonton Eskimos in last November's Grey Cup game.

After an "I'll never leave Winnipeg" response to initial queries about rumors he was headed to the WFLA, Riley did an about-face and took a lucrative position as head coach of the San Antonio Riders. After winning the 1988 Grey Cup, Riley had similarly quit to take an assistant's job at Stanford, then changed his mind and rejoined the Bombers two weeks later. Perhaps expecting a similar reversal by Riley this time, general manager Cal Murphy didn't name a replacement for sometime. But finally, early in March, he hired former Detroit Lion, Michigan State, and Arizona State coach Darryl Rogers to take over.

Rogers, who once hired Murphy as an assistant at San Jose State, has had only a casual glance at the Canadian game. He does, however, have the benefit of taking over an outstanding club. While most observers picked the Bombers to finish at the bottom of the Eastern Conference last season, the Bombers proved them all wrong. In defense of those predictions, though, they were made before the Bombers landed quarterback Tom Burgess (Colgate) in a trade with Saskatchewan on the eve of the opening game of the 1990 season.

The steadying influence of Burgess, who was backed up by Danny McManus (Florida State), and the running of Robert Mimbs (Kansas), who led the league in rushing, with 1,341 yards, in his first season north of the border, provided the Bombers with all the offense they needed. The rest was left up to the league's finest defense. While the Bombers scored a measly 472 points, the fewest of any team, they also gave up the fewest points, 398. (The next-stingiest team, the Edmonton Eskimos, allowed 510.) They'll likely utilize the same "defense wins championships" philosophy this season despite the change in coaches.

The hub of the awesome defense is the four-man linebacking corps of Greg Battle (Arizona State), who was named the CFL's top defensive player, Paul Randolph (Tennessee-Martin), Tyrone Jones (Southern), and James West (Texas Southern). And the strength of that unit was such that the loss of West for a good portion of the season didn't have a devastating effect, as rookie Albert Williams (Texas-El Paso) proved to be a solid replacement.

Behind this group the Bombers have two of the CFL's top cornerbacks in Less Browne (Colorado), who led the league in interceptions, with 14, and Rod Hill (Kentucky State), the runner-up, with 12. Gene Jelks (Alabama) could be the future replacement for one of the veterans. Up front the three-man unit of Quincy Williams (Auburn) and Mike Gray (Oregon) and Winnipeg native Stan Mikawos (North Dakota), who will begin his 10th season with the Bombers, set things up for the linebackers.

With veteran receivers James Murphy (Utah State), who was hurt for much of last season, and Perry Tuttle (Clemson) talking of retirement, Winnipeg recruited heavily in the off-

season at wide receiver and slotback. But Murphy and Tuttle have decided to return and that will make for some interesting competition at training camp. Among the newcomers are Troy Johnson (Southern) and Jason Novacek (Fresno State), brother of Dallas Cowboy tight end Jay Novacek.

The tandem of Bob Cameron and Trevor Kennerd, entering their 12th CFL season—all with the Bombers—will continue to provide the punting and place-kicking.

OTTAWA ROUGH RIDERS

(7-11) Guess it all depends on which direction you're going. Two years ago, Bob O'Billovich was promptly fired after the Toronto Argonauts finished with a 7-11 record. Last fall, the



Rough Riders ended their season with that same won-lost mark and Steve Goldman was being hailed as a savior by football fans in the nation's capital. O'Billovich's problem was that he was going the wrong way. The year before, he'd led the Argos to a 14-4 mark, so 7-11 was a severe setback. On the other hand, the Riders were 4-14 in 1989, so three more victories last season represented a substantial improvement. Now, however, the pressure will be on Goldman to take his club to the next level: a winning season. That's something the Rough Riders haven't done since 1979, when they finished at 8-6-2.

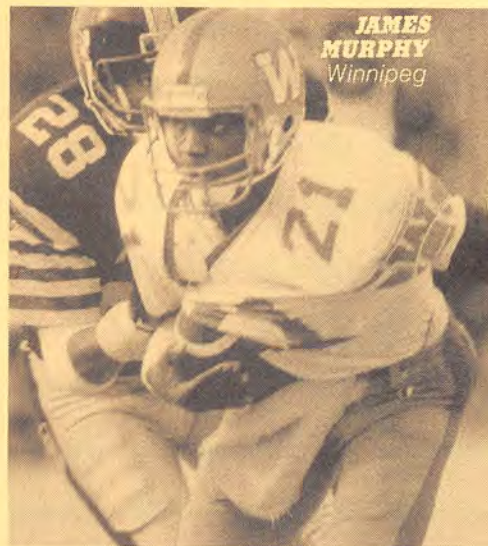
"We did make some good progress last year," said Goldman. "For one thing, we made the playoffs for the first time since 1985. Now we're looking to turn things completely around and have a winning season and compete for the Grey Cup."

To do that Goldman felt he had to begin by shoring up the defensive backfield. And he did just that by signing cornerbacks Andre Francis (New Mexico State), who had played out his option with the Edmonton Eskimos, and Lance Shields (Drake), who had been released by the Hamilton Tiger-Cats. "[They] have some experience at the corners," said Goldman. "I feel we're better back there." The addition of those two veterans should go a

long ways toward filling the holes left by the forced retirement, due to a neck injury, of Troy Wilson (Notre Dame) and the defection of Brett Young (Oregon) to the Buffalo Bills.

Goldman also lost middle linebacker Bruce Holmes (Minnesota), who led the CFL in tackles last season, to the New York Jets, but picked up the controversial Jeff Braswell (Iowa State) from the Eskimos in a trade for wide receiver David Williams. Braswell, who played previously with the B.C. Lions, has earned a reputation as a disruptive force with his antics on and off the field. But if he can clean up that part of his act, he can become a useful player because there's no doubt about his athletic abilities.

The Riders hit pay dirt last year when they unearthed running back Reggie Barnes (Delaware State), who won Rookie of the Year honors after rushing for 1,260 yards. With a year under his helmet, Barnes should be that much better. Eddie Brown (Iowa State), who was picked up from the Calgary Stampeders, will get the opportunity to step into Williams's spot at wide receiver. The other wideout will be Stephen Jones (Central Michigan), who had an outstanding '90 season, grabbing 59 passes for 1,182 yards. Canadians James Ellington and Gerald Wilcox (Weber State) will be the other two targets for quarterback Damon Allen (Fullerton State), who is entering his seventh CFL season. And Goldman feels he's finally landed the experienced reserve quarterback he's been looking for in John Congemi (Pittsburgh), who was obtained in a 3-for-1 trade with the Argos. "I was worried



about going into the season with Tony Kimbrough (Western Michigan) as the backup to Damon," said Goldman. "Quite honestly I thought Kimbrough would be further along than he is in his development."

Terry Baker will add the place-kicking chores to his punting assignments after veteran Dean Dorsey was dealt to the Argonauts in the Congemi trade.

HAMILTON TIGER-CATS

(6-12) After coming within two seconds of winning the Grey Cup in 1989, the Tiger-Cats changed their stripes dramatically last season. They slipped all the way to last place and are in need of a major overhaul.

That change began late last season with the

firing of long-time head coach Al Bruno, who as late as 1986 was CFL Coach of the Year. The popular Bruno was replaced by the relatively unknown David Beckman, who had been hired as director of player personnel last spring after Mike McCarthy went down the highway to take over the general manager's office in Toronto. As a scout Beckman held positions with the Cleveland Browns and San Diego, but as a coach his experience is limited to the high school and college ranks. But if enthusiasm can make him a winner, then football fans in Hamilton won't have to wait long for their beloved Tabbies to get back on top.

"The biggest thing we have to concentrate on is regaining our old image, one of 'Button down your chin straps when you play the Tiger Cats,'" Beckman said.

Finding players to fit that mold will be the job of the Ticats' new player personnel director, Greg Mohns, who previously served as a scout and then as director of pro personnel with the Kansas City Chiefs from 1983-88. With a talented corps of receivers led by Tony Champion (Tennessee-Martin), Earl Winfield (North Carolina), Canadians Wally Zatylny and Rocky DiPietro, Beckman has designed what he's dubbed a "Ti-Scat" offense. He'll use four different offenses to take advantage of his personnel. This year's No. 1 pick, Nick Mazzoli (Simon Fraser), elected to give the NFL a try with Seattle, but could be back in Hamilton if he doesn't make Seahawks.

Hit by injuries, running back Derrick McAdoo (Baylor) saw his production drop to 752 yards rushing (down from 1,039) and 583 yards receiving (down from 699). But he is expected to regain the form that made him a multiple threat in 1989. Veterans Mike Kerrigan (Northwestern) and Todd Dillon (Long Beach) are back to handle the quarterbacking, most likely in that order, but Beckman will be seeking a third to replace Terry Andrysiak (Notre Dame), who left the team for a tryout in the WLAF. Miles Gorrell, a 12-year veteran, retired and then un-retired to give the offensive line, which includes center Dale Sander-son (Tennessee) and guard Ralph Scholz (Cornell), a lift.

Beckman wasn't seeking to make wholesale defensive changes despite the fact that the Ticats gave up more points last season than any other club. He will be seeking a young lineman to join Dan Sellers (Cincinnati), Romel Andrews (Tennessee-Martin), who returned to the club midway through last season after an unsuccessful NFL tryout, and the ageless Grover Covington (Johnson C. Smith), back for his 11th season in black and gold.

Getting homebrew linebacker Peter Giffopoulos (Penn State), who remained unsigned as camp approached, back in the fold was a priority for general manager Joe Zuger. With the release of Darrell Patterson (Texas Christian) and the retirement, again, of Frank Robinson (Tulane), Darrell Corbin (South Carolina State) is the only returning import linebacker. Newcomers seeking linebacking jobs include Brian Hilk (Akron) and John Motton (Akron).

The Ticats lost veteran cornerback Lance Shields (Drake), whom they had demoted to the practice roster, to Ottawa. The emergence of Gary Wilkerson (Penn State) and Albert Thomas (Tennessee State) on the corners, along with safeties Bobby Dawson (Illinois) and Stephen Jordan (Illinois), keeps the secondary respectable.

Paul Osbaldiston lost the scoring race to Saskatchewan's Dave Ridgway but still managed to supply 212 points. He'll continue to handle the punting and place-kicking.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

EDMONTON ESKIMOS

(10-8) Over the past 15 years, the Eskimos have been the CFL's dominant team. In that span they appeared in nine Grey Cup games, winning seven, including five straight between 1978 and '82. When they won an unprecedented 16 games in 1989, it appeared the Eskies were about to begin another collection of championship rings. But they were upset by the title-bound Saskatchewan Roughriders in the '89 Western final and the Eskimos never recovered. Amid reports of discontent in the locker room, including rumblings of racial discord, the Eskimos' record fell to 10-8 in 1990. Still, the talent-laden club managed to sweep past the defending champion Riders in the semifinals and then upset the first-place Calgary Stampeders in the conference final. But they were no match for the Blue Bombers in the Grey Cup match in Vancouver and were soundly drubbed, 50-11.

It didn't take general manager Hugh Campbell long to decide that changes had to be made. He either fired or persuaded Joe Faragalli to step down as head coach, depending on the version one cares to believe. Then he turned to his old pass-and-catch partner from their playing days with the Roughriders, Hall of Fame quarterback Ron Lancaster, to put the Eskimos back on the track.

Lancaster, who starred for 19 seasons in the CFL—17 with Saskatchewan—had been a successful color commentator on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's telecast of CFL games for a number of years. But he eagerly accepted Campbell's offer of the Eskimo coaching post. Taking over a poor Rider team following his retirement in 1978, Lancaster was fired two years later with an ignominious record of four victories and 28 losses. It left a bad taste in his mouth, and now he's looking at his return to the CFL coaching ranks as a chance to cleanse his palate. "I wasn't happy with the way things went the last time," said Lancaster. "And if I didn't try it again, I wouldn't be happy 10 years from now."

Lancaster, who as a broadcaster had listened to reports of internal strife plaguing the Eskimos, wasted no time setting out to correct the problem. The ink on his contract was still wet when he traded the undisciplined and discommoding linebacker Jeff Braswell (Iowa State) to Ottawa for the unhappy wide receiver David Williams (Illinois). He did not pursue cornerback Andre Francis (New Mexico State), who had played out his option and eventually signed with Ottawa.

Williams, who two years ago caught 79 passes for 1,446 yards, took those stats to Ottawa as a free agent and grabbed a contract reportedly worth \$130,000. He didn't live up to expectations, catching just 61 passes for 895 yards and falling out of favor with Rider coach Steve Goldman. Lancaster is hoping a change in scene will rejuvenate Williams. "We need help at the receiver positions," he said. "Besides a wide receiver, we need a slotback to take some of the pressure off Craig Ellis," who caught a league-leading 106 passes for 1,654 yards. Tracy Ham (Georgia Southern),

who was inconsistent at quarterback last year, will have Reggie Taylor (Cincinnati), out most of last year with a knee injury, returning as his running back.

The Eskimos grabbed linebacker Willie Pless (Kansas), who had played out his option with B.C., and former Blue Bomber defensive back Roy Bennett, who had spent the past three seasons with the San Diego Chargers. Bennett will replace Francis at one corner. The acquisition of Pless, however, had Lancaster smiling. "He's the player we needed to play the type of defense we want to implement," he said, explaining that Edmonton will go to a 30 defense. Pless will team up with five-time all-CFL Dan Bass and Canadians Larry Wruck and Leroy Blugh to give the Eskimos a formidable linebacking crew. Lancaster was poised to lose all-star end Stewart Hill (Washington), who became a free agent and was exploring NFL opportunities. But he feels the addition of Pless and the switch to the 30 defense will minimize the loss of Hill.

Ray Macoritti came out of nowhere to do an excellent job as punter and place-kicker as the replacement for Jerry Kauric, who had jumped to the NFL.

SASKATCHEWAN ROUGHRIDERS

(9-9) It's always easier to win a championship than to defend it. So goes the coaching adage. And you can bet (oops, sorry, Mr. Commissioner) that Roughrider head coach John Gregory agrees with that idiom. After guiding the prairie Riders to their first Grey Cup title in 23 years in 1989, Gregory found out just how difficult it is to repeat, even in an eight-team league. The Roughies disappointed the faithful by failing to improve on their 9-9, third-place record of 1989. But even more disconcerting was the fact they bowed out meekly to the Eskimos in the semifinals.

Gregory, however, refuses to go along with the notion that his club was a one-year wonder. "We had a good year," he said stoically. "We had some injuries at the wrong time. I felt we were very competitive last year and we'll be very competitive this season. Despite winning the Grey Cup the year before, we had seven rookies make the team last year. They, along with the carry-over vets, should give us a good base."

The Riders must improve defensively if they are to keep pace in the Western Conference this season. Last year they gave up 592 points, the most by the five teams with .500-or-better records. Even in their championship season they were the second-most-scored-upon team in the league. Improving his defensive record won't get easier for Gregory if general manager Al Ford can't convince linemen Bobby Jurasin (Northern Michigan) and Chuck Klingbeil (Northern Michigan) to resign with the Riders. Both had NFL aspirations. Ford has already signed Marlin Williams (Western Illinois) and Derek Jones (Miami) as possible replacements should the veteran twosome fail to return. End Vince Goldsmith (Oregon) is expected back for his 11th season and tackle Gary Lewis (Oklahoma State), with seven years of experience, returns, along with middle linebacker Eddie Lowe (Alabama), beginning his ninth season with the Riders, and six-year vet David Albright (San Jose State). The diminutive Richie Hall (Colorado State), who had six interceptions, and Albert Brown head the secondary.

Offensively, Kent Austin (Mississippi), who won the starting quarterback job over Tom Burgess, led the league in passing as he completed 360 of 618 for 4,604 yards. Tony Rice (Notre Dame), who has been "loaned" to Barcelona of the World League, will be back to compete for the backup job with Jeff Bentrim (North Dakota State) and Ted Wahl (North Dakota). With slotback Jeff Fairholm (Arizona) spending much of the season on the injury list, fellow Canadian Ray Elgaard (Utah) rebounded from his own injury-plagued 1989 season to become Austin's main target. He caught 94 passes for 1,654 yards, while import wideout Don Narcisse (Texas Southern) wasn't far behind with 86 catches for 1,129 yards. Rookie David Pitcher made quite an impression in his first season and Gregory is expecting even more from him this season.

The veteran offensive line will finally get a young face in its midst to replace Ken Moore (Hawaii), who asked for and received a trade back to Calgary, where he was planning to pursue a master's degree while finishing out his playing career with the Stamps. That means sophomore Chris Gioskos, the Riders' fourth pick in last year's draft, will get an opportunity to step into the line which includes the seemingly ageless Roger Aldag, who is 36; 34-year-old Bob Poley, Vic Stevenson, 29, and Mike Anderson (San Diego State), 28.

Lucius Floyd (Nevada-Reno) filled in for the injured running back Tim McCray (Tulane) and did such an outstanding job (421 yards rushing and 811 yards receiving) that McCray couldn't get his job back. Former Rookie of the Year Orville Lee rebounded smartly from a disastrous sophomore slump in Ottawa and will see plenty of work at running back. Milson Jones is set at fullback.

Dave Ridgway, who hit on 82 percent of his 72 field-goal attempts and led the league in scoring, with 233 points, is simply the CFL's best. Punter Mike Lazecski should improve on his rookie average of 37.6 yards.

CALGARY STAMPEDERS

(11-6-1) With rookie head coach Wally Buono, the one-time Montreal Alouette linebacker, providing even-keeled leadership after the tumultuous Lary Kuharich days, the Stampeders put together their best record in 11 seasons. In a way it was even better than the 12-4 mark compiled in 1979, since that club finished second while last year's team ended up atop the West before bowing to the Eskimos in the conference finals. But even that success and a matching resurgence in attendance didn't help the Stamps escape their financial woes. While their day-to-day operation came close to the break-even point, servicing the huge debt continues to be a serious problem for the club's directors.

The directors of the publicly owned Stamps say the team will carry on although they don't deny they'd like to see the club purchased by private interests. One rumor had actor Clint Eastwood interested in buying the team. It proved to be no more than a bad joke, but it had general manager Norm Kwong chuckling. "It would be nice if he came in with a fistfull of dollars," said the sharp-witted Kwong. "It would certainly make my day."

While it's imperative that the club perform well on the field to maintain and even build on last year's improvement at the gate, Buono said that doesn't translate into added pres-

sure on the players or coaches. "All we can do is put the best team we can on the field," he said. "The rest is out of my hands."

The Stamps took a big step toward improving their on-field product when they signed free-agent middle linebacker Alondra Johnson (West Texas State), who had played out his option with B.C. He gives the Stamps the middle linebacker they've been missing since the troublesome Doug Landry was bounced out of town. He'll join Henry Smith (Texas A & I), who replaced Ken Ford (Texas A & M) midway through last season, and Canadian Matt Finlay (Eastern Michigan). Tackle Kent Warnock finally emerged as the dominating lineman everyone had predicted and he'll anchor the defensive line. End Will Johnson (Northeast Louisiana) equaled Warnock's team-leading 16 sacks. Now, like Warnock, Johnson will be called upon to move up to the next level of performance. In fact, Buono will be looking for all his players to take the extra step that will allow them to make plays that just seemed to fall short last season. That means players such as cornerback Junior Thurman (Southern Cal) will be asked to improve on his two interceptions, as will Darryl Hall (Washington), who had three thefts as a rookie. David Lee McCrary (UT-Chattanooga) and veteran Ron Hopkins (Murray State) will have to bounce back from injuries.

On offense Danny Barrett (Cincinnati) needs to put together a full season like the one the 30-year-old quarterback was enjoying until he suffered a broken leg midway through the 1990 schedule. And if he can't, then it's time for third-year pivot Terrence Jones (Tulane) to live up to expectations.

The Stampeders uncovered two fine receivers last year in Allen Pitts (Cal-Fullerton) and Derrick Crawford (Memphis State). Each caught 112 passes for more than 1,000 yards. They'll be the main targets of Barrett and Jones, although Buono expects Canadian David Sapunjis to begin emerging as more of a threat in '91 after an impressive rookie year. Keyvan Jenkins (Nevada-Las Vegas), who had a fine comeback season interrupted by injuries, will battle Tony Cherry (Oregon) for the running-back spot.

Brent Matich provided Calgary with the best punting in the league last year, but Mark McLoughlin will be expected to improve the success rate of his field-goal attempts.

BRITISH COLUMBIA LIONS

(6-11-1) It was almost a decade ago that Bob O'Billovich took his laid-back coaching style to Toronto, calmed the turbulent waters, and brought the floundering Argonauts back to respectability. Now, just over a year after he was fired by Toronto, O'Billovich is attempting to bring a sense of calm to the Lions after the bizarre, short-lived regime of Joe Kapp and Lary Kuharich. Actually, O'Billovich assumed the head-coaching job with the Lions two-thirds of the way into last season after Kapp fired his buddy Kuharich and then was dismissed himself by owner Murray Pezim. With the director of football operations added to his title, O'Billovich will have the opportunity to put his own mark on the Lions.

O'Billovich headed into training camp with a linebacking corps decimated by defections and his overall defense fraught with inexperience. Cornerback Chris Major (South Carolina), who was injured for much of last season,

is the only defender who has played more than one year as a starter. The rest are newcomers or players who have served primarily in backup roles. The disintegration of the linebacking corps actually began last fall. Shortly after accepting the coaching job, O'Billovich sent middle linebacker Doug Landry (Louisiana Tech), with whom he had clashed in Toronto, packing once more. In the winter he watched helplessly as first Alondra Johnson (West Texas State) and then Willie Pless (Kansas) signed with Calgary and Edmonton, respectively, after gaining free agency. "There's no doubt our biggest needs are at linebacker, particularly middle linebacker," said O'Billovich. Nico Perkins (Memphis State), who started the last game of the season at middle linebacker, will get a good look, although he might be a little small for that position. O'Billovich is also high on Canadian Paul Wetmore.

Jerald Baylis (Southern Mississippi), who played for O'Billovich in Toronto and then retired after being dealt to the Lions last year as part of the six-for-one Matt Dunigan trade, is ready to return to the playing ranks after a year of coaching at the University of Buffalo. If he can reach an agreement on a contract, he'll be a large addition to the defensive line, as will Stewart Hill (Washington), who played out his option in Edmonton and was looking to move closer to his Seattle home if he could not find work in the NFL.

O'Billovich will have to do a lot less tinkering with his offense. Former NFL quarterback Doug Flutie (Boston College) will have the benefit of a full training camp this year. There were times last season when he looked every bit like the star attraction he was expected to be when he signed a lucrative contract with the Lions. At other times he looked bewildered by the Canadian game. Major Harris (West Virginia) should also have a much better grasp of CFL football.

O'Billovich can provide his quarterbacks with a fine set of receivers, headed by Ray Alexander (Florida A & M), Darrell Colbert (Texas Southern), and Canadian Jay Christensen. But he's looking to add more speed to the pass-catching corps and is hoping that Brian Bedford (California), another Argo reject, can supply that. Newcomer Eric Starr, who had a tryout with the Buffalo Bills last season, might also be able to add speed as a slotback. If not, he'll compete with David Elridge (Arizona) and Lorenzo Graham (Livingston) for the running-back position. Bart Hull (Boise State), son of hockey great Bobby Hull and brother of St. Louis Blues' scoring phenom Brett Hull, was the Lions' No. 1 pick in this year's draft. While he contended that he had a pretty good slap shot himself, the Lions were more interested in his speed afoot, which they'll test at running back and fullback.

The line, led by Jim Mills (Hawaii), the former Indianapolis Colt, who was named the top offensive lineman in the CFL last season, and including center Ian Sinclair (Miami) and tackle Larry Clarkson (Montana), is another no-worry area for O'Billovich.

Ageless punter and place-kicker Lui Passaglia is back for a 16th season, but just in case the 37-year-old is no longer able to stand up to the rigors of football, O'Billovich has brought in former Simon Fraser University quarterback/punter Giulio Carravata, along with Tony Martino (Kent State), who filled in when Passaglia was injured last year. □

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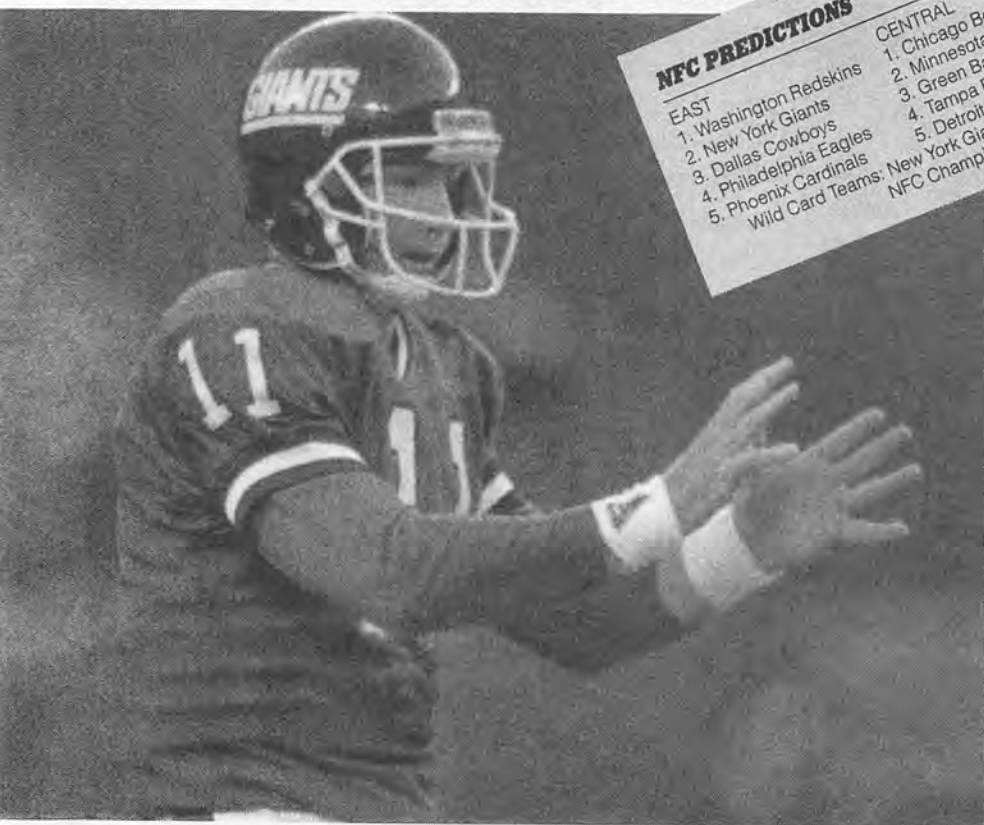
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NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE



New Giants' head coach Ray Handley has two Super Bowl-winning quarterbacks in Phil Simms (above) and Jeff Hostetler (far right).

NFC PREDICTIONS

EAST

1. Washington Redskins
2. New York Giants
3. Dallas Cowboys
4. Philadelphia Eagles
5. Phoenix Cardinals

Wild Card Teams: New York Giants, Dallas Cowboys, New Orleans Saints

CENTRAL

1. Chicago Bears
2. Minnesota Vikings
3. Green Bay Packers
4. Tampa Bay Buccaneers
5. Detroit Lions

NFC Champion: Washington Redskins

WEST

1. San Francisco 49ers
2. New Orleans Saints
3. Atlanta Falcons
4. Los Angeles Rams

by **DON PIERSON**

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Back Buddy." But don't blame new head coach Rich Kotite.

5. The Atlanta Falcons should win more than half their games.

6. They won't.

7. Chicago's Jim Harbaugh was the ninth-ranked passer in the league? Right below Dan Marino and right above John Elway and Jim Everett? Bo Schembechler's Jim Harbaugh?

8. Rocket Ismail is no dummy. As soon as he found out the Dallas Cowboys had traded for his rights, he signed in Canada. He knew if he went over the middle in the NFC East, he would soon look more like a wet firecracker.

9. The Phoenix Cardinals and the New Orleans Saints should volunteer to move to the AFC, where they would have a fair chance.

10. The AFC should ask for the Cowboys.

11. The teams in the NFC Central should qualify for Farm Aid.

12. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers are starting to act like they know what they're doing. They put a woman in charge.

13. Is there a Mrs. Ford in the Lions' future?

14. Joe Gibbs will find a way to win the Super Bowl if quarterbacks Mark Rypien and Stan Humphries cooperate.

15. The Rams won't win the Super Bowl. But they do have a woman in charge and she rehired John Robinson, a good coach.

16. The Bears have the toughest schedule in the league—three Monday nights, one Thursday night, Thanksgiving day, one Saturday, Tampa Bay in Chicago in December, at Tampa Bay in September.

17. Vaughan Johnson is every bit as good a linebacker as Pepper Johnson.

18. Vaughan plays for the Saints.

19. The Green Bay Packers will never move.

20. Four big guys and six little guys were among the first 10 players drafted. The NFC got all the big guys—Russell Maryland to Dallas, Eric Swann to Phoenix, Charles McRae to Tampa Bay, Antone Davis to Philadelphia.

Furthermore, the NFC drafted all five defensive linemen chosen in the first round: Maryland, Swann, Washington's Bobby Wilson, Detroit's Kelvin Pritchett, and San Francisco's Ted Washington. The NFC drafted three of the four offensive linemen chosen in the first round: McRae, Davis, and Chicago's Stan Thomas (Pat Harlow went to New England).

● If the National Football League were really serious about controlling premeditated acts of uninhibited celebration, it would outlaw the National Conference. Seven Super Bowl victories in a row, nine of 10, is beginning to look far too much like taunting. May it please the court, however, the margin this time was a mere point, a far cry from the average score of 40-14 for the last six games.

There remain several points to make:

1. The NFC run may be nearing an end. To wit, there were only five winning teams in the NFC last season, not enough to fill out the new playoff format without embarrassment. The New Orleans Saints were reluctant 8-8 guests while the 9-7 Seattle Seahawks and Pittsburgh Steelers stayed home from the AFC dance.

2. The 49ers aren't finished. Last time anyone looked, Joe Montana and Jerry Rice were not on Plan B.

3. The Giants aren't finished either, but don't look for them to win many more Super Bowls on the legs of Ottis Anderson, the foot of Matt Bahr, and the arm of Jeff Hostetler. How did those guys do that anyway?

4. The Eagles are finished. Figure October for the fickle Philly fans to start chanting: "Bring

21. If the league is so afraid that free agency will disrupt the delicate balance of power, why have only eight teams won the last 20 Super Bowls? Five are from the NFC: Giants, 49ers, Redskins, Bears, Cowboys. The others are Raiders, Steelers, and Dolphins.

22. No self-respecting NFC team will use Buffalo's no-huddle offense.

23. A few self-respecting NFC teams will wish they had.

24. The Minnesota Vikings have a better chance of playing the Super Bowl at home than the Tampa Bay Buccaneers did last year.

25. If the NFL expands, the first city it should name is Chicago. NBC would love an AFC team there. So would the Bears, because it would mean a new stadium.

26. Jerry Glanville would rather be a stand-up comic than a football coach.

27. Guess what? He is.

28. The NFC also drafted the first three wide receivers: Detroit's Herman Moore, Dallas's Alvin Harper, and Atlanta's Mike Pritchard.

29. Pritchard will make the league forget Rocket Ismail.

30. Who did the AFC draft anyway?

31. Remember the name Jarrod Bunch, full-back, first-round pick of the New York Giants.

32. Art Monk is a great player. He's the Redskins' Hall of Fame receiver, but he also chased San Francisco's Michael Carter all the way down the field when Carter scored on that fluke 61-yard interception return in the playoffs. Monk was too far away to catch him, but he almost did. The game was too out of hand to matter, but Monk tried.

33. The NFC boasts the five top pass receivers: San Francisco's Jerry Rice, Atlanta's Andre Rison, Philadelphia's Keith Byars, the Rams' Henry Ellard, and Washington's Gary Clark. Houston's run-and-shoot offense boasts three of the next four receivers.

34. Barry Sanders won't average 5.1 yards if the Lions go away from the run-and-shoot.

35. Chicago's Neal Anderson is the best all-round running back in the NFC, but is he better than Buffalo's Thurman Thomas?

36. If the Raiders make it to the Super Bowl, thank Ronnie Lott and Roger Craig.

37. This could be the last year for the Bears' Mike Singletary and the Giants' Lawrence Taylor. Fittingly, they would enter the Hall of Fame together in five years.

38. Green Bay's Sterling Sharpe is the best receiver this side of Jerry Rice.

39. Cowboy quarterback Troy Aikman will be in the Pro Bowl.

40. Chicago's Mark Carrier is for real. The Bears have never missed on a first-round draft choice since personnel chief Bill Tobin arrived as a scout in 1975.

41. If Jerry Burns ever leaves coaching, it will be too soon.

42. The 49ers should retire this number.

EASTERN DIVISION

The best division in the league is the toughest to dominate, so the Giants will be fortunate to get out alive. They own the Redskins who own the Eagles who own the Giants, but look for the Cowboys to get more involved in the triumverate and don't forget the Cardinals lost twice to the Giants last year by a total of four points. The tally: Giants over Redskins, six in a row; Redskins over Eagles, nine of last 12; Eagles over Giants, five of last six.

If the Eagles make the playoffs for the fourth year in a row, new coach Rich Kotite should be coach of the year, regardless of whether they win a playoff game.

For once, the schedule allows the natural Eastern Division rivalries to build up to a season-ending climax. In the last three weeks, there are showdown games between the Eagles and Giants, Redskins and Giants, Eagles and Redskins, Cowboys and Eagles, and Cardinals and Redskins. Good December stuff.

CENTRAL DIVISION

The worst division in the league begged for somebody to step forward and cut in on the Bears last season. Instead, after watching the Bears slip to 6-10 in 1989, all four rivals decided to copy them with 6-10 records in 1990.

Can anybody copy the Bears' 11-5 mark of last year? Doubtful. The Vikings have won 11 games only once since 1976. The Packers haven't won 11 since 1966. The Lions haven't won 11 since 1962. The Bucs haven't won 11 games since Moby Dick was a minnow.

The storyline in the Central is an old one—who are the quarterbacks? In Chicago, some people, including Mike Ditka, can't wait to see what second-year man Peter Tom Willis can do. Jim Harbaugh had an outstanding season in his first year as a starter, and he had better

continue. In Tampa, they are still waiting for Vinny Testaverde to throw more touchdown passes than interceptions, let alone win more games than the Bucs lose. In Minnesota, Wade Wilson starts and Rich Gannon finishes and some people think Sean Salisbury soon will stake his claim as better than both of them. In Green Bay, Don Majkowski's shoulder is recovering from rotator cuff surgery, leaving Anthony Dilweg and newcomer Mike Tomczak looking over it. In Detroit, first-round draft choice Andre Ware waits impatiently for sixth-round choice Rodney Peete to prove he can't operate the run-and-shoot.

WESTERN DIVISION

If the Falcons and Saints are rising in the east half of the west and the Rams and 49ers are setting in the west part, nobody told Joe Montana about it. The 49ers were 14-2 and missed going to their third Super Bowl by a few feet. They didn't exactly collapse. "This team survived with the best record in the NFL in the most unbelievably pressured environment I've ever seen a team cast in," vice president John McVay said.

The Rams are in trouble. They were 5-11 and must learn a new defense under former Eagles' coordinator Jeff Fisher. Usually, it takes more than one training camp for players to assimilate the nuances of Buddy Ryan's scheme. Maybe Fisher has better ideas.

The Falcons have more No. 1 draft choices on their roster than any other team in football, but they have beaten the Saints only once in their last eight meetings.



1991 ALL-NFC TEAM

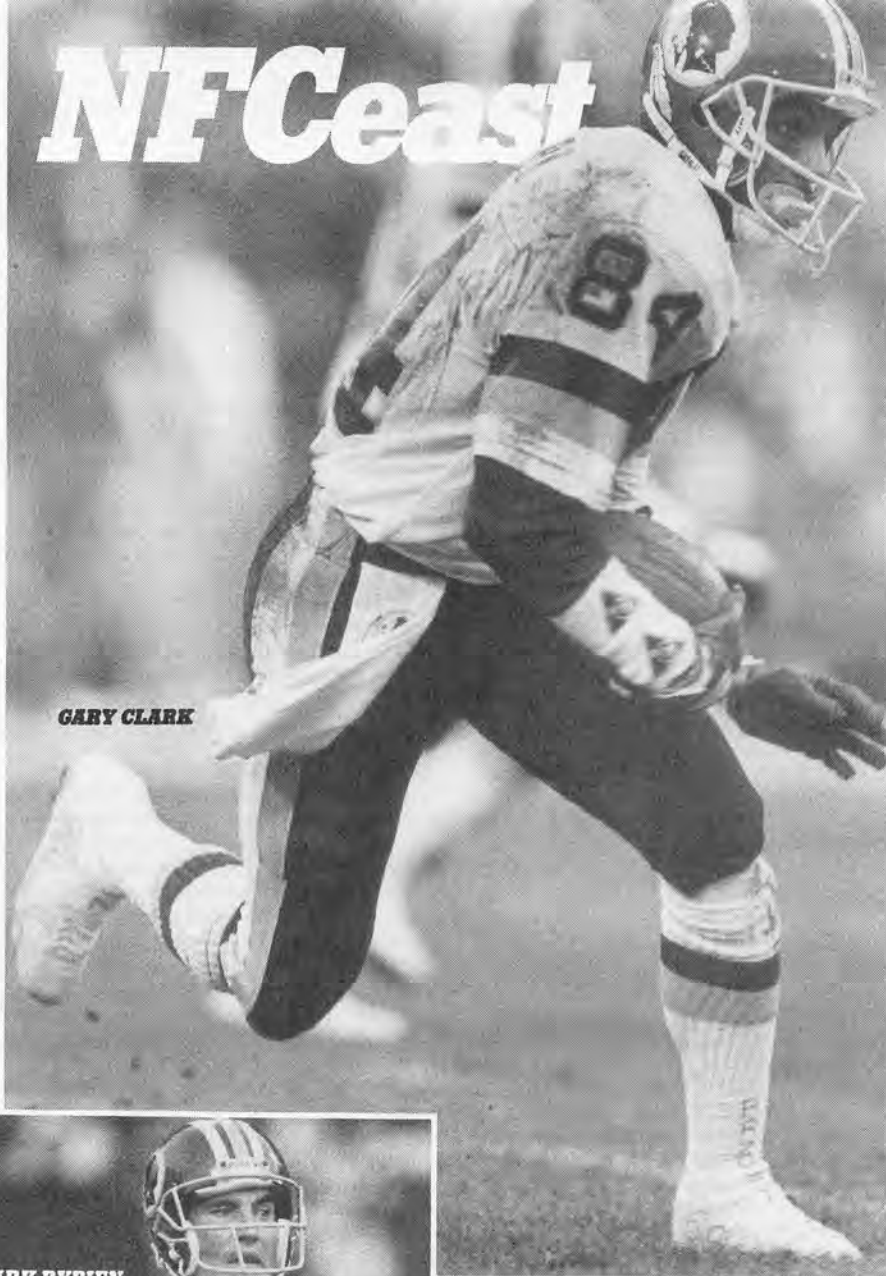
OFFENSE

- WR** Jerry Rice, 49ers
Sterling Sharpe, Packers
- TE** Steve Jordan, Vikings
- T** John Elliott, Giants
Jim Lachey, Redskins
- G** Randall McDaniel, Vikings
Mark Bortz, Bears
- C** Mark Stepnoski, Cowboys
- QB** Joe Montana, 49ers
- RB** Barry Sanders, Lions
Neal Anderson, Bears
- PB** Morten Andersen, Saints

DEFENSE

- E** Kevin Fagan, 49ers
Richard Dent, Bears
- T** Reggie White, Eagles
Pierce Holt, 49ers
- LB** Charles Haley, 49ers
Rickey Jackson, Saints
Vaughan Johnson, Saints
Pepper Johnson, Giants
- CB** Darrell Green, Redskins
Mark Collins, Giants
- S** Joey Browner, Vikings
Mark Carrier, Bears
- P** Sean Landeta, Giants

NFC East



GARY CLARK



MARK RYPIEN

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Every team likes to argue it is only a few plays, a few plays, a few minutes away from the Super Bowl. For the Redskins, it is true. Their 28-10 playoff loss to the 49ers last year was closer than that in their eyes. A couple of passes by Joe Montana fit through a keyhole and a couple of passes by Mark Rypien missed the open doorway. The vision of San Francisco's 300-pound Michael Carter staggering 61 yards with an interception for a touchdown is not the way the Redskins want to be remembered. They are one of the four or five best teams in football.

"I told them I was proud of their effort. We had our chances. I thought if we beat the 49ers, we had a good shot at everything. We took a step up and obviously we have to take another one," coach Joe Gibbs said.

Beating the Giants would be a good first step. The Redskins have lost six straight to the world champions and are beginning to get a complex. This year, they don't have to play them until the eighth game, their latest meeting since 1986. Because their first seven games are against Detroit, Dallas, Phoenix,

Cincinnati, Philadelphia, Chicago, and Cleveland, the Redskins could have the kind of record that will engender confidence during their trip to New Jersey.

Few teams played better than the Redskins at the end of last season. During the last six weeks, they beat Miami, Chicago, Buffalo, and Philadelphia. But they also lost to Dallas and Indianapolis during that stretch, indicative of a team that blew hot and cold.

As usual with most teams, the inconsistency is reflected at quarterback. Mark Rypien's interception against Dallas and three interceptions against San Francisco are sobering reminders to Washington fans that all is not yet well. Gibbs made it clear that Rypien is the No. 1 quarterback entering this season. His record in the last 17 games as a starter is 13-4. He missed six games last year with injuries and has started only 32 games as a pro. When he was hurt, Stan Humphries got a chance and looked like the answer at times. But he threw three touchdown passes and 10 interceptions, not the kinds of numbers to turn Gibbs's head. Humphries won three games, but lost both times to the Giants.

"Being honest, having worked with them, I can say that Rip and Stan haven't done it yet,"

REDSKINS 1990 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Lohmiller, 131 points on 41 extra points and 30 field goals... 1st
RUSHING—Byner, 1,219 yards on 297 carries, 4.1 avg., 6 TDs... 2nd
PASSING—Rypien, 166 of 304 attempts for 2,070 yards and 16 TDs... 8th
RECEIVING—Clark, 75 receptions for 1,112 yards, 14.8 average, 8 TDs... 5th
INTERCEPTIONS—Mayhew, 7 for 20 yards, 2.9 average... T2nd
PUNTING—Mojisejkenko, 43 punts, 39.2 average, longest 53 yards... 11th
PUNT RETURNS—Stanley, 24 for 176 yards, 7.3 average... 11th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Howard, 22 for 427 yards, 19.4 average... 11th
SACKS—Stokes, 7.5 sacks... T11th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 4 At Pittsburgh (N)
10 At New England (N)
16 CLEVELAND (N)
24 N.Y. Jets at Columbia, SC (N)

1991 SCHEDULE

		1990 SCORES
September	1 DETROIT (N)	41-38
	9 At Dallas (N)	17-27
	15 PHOENIX	31-0
	22 At Cincinnati	—
	30 PHILADELPHIA (N)	13-7
October	6 At Chicago	10-9
	13 CLEVELAND	—
	20 OPEN DATE	—
	27 At New York Giants (N)	10-21
November	3 HOUSTON	—
	10 ATLANTA	—
	17 At Pittsburgh	—
	24 DALLAS	19-15
December	1 At Los Angeles Rams	—
	8 At Phoenix	38-10
	15 NEW YORK GIANTS	20-24
	22 At Philadelphia	14-28

Gibbs said. "There'll always be that element of doubt until a quarterback steps up and does it. What Rip showed in his last 14 or 15 starts is that he can play some of the better games that were played in the NFL. We know he's capable of doing that, and we know he's capable of less than that."

The outlook for the Redskins is as simple as it gets: If they are to take that extra step, Rypien must improve. "Can he become an elite quarterback? I don't think I can answer that," Gibbs said. "I don't think he can [answer it]. What has hurt us two years running with Rip being the starter is him being injured. You

can't miss big chunks of the season and come back where you left off. He has stepped up a lot and hopefully next year he'll be ready to step up another notch."

The rest of the cast is solid, talented, and experienced. The Redskins even drafted their first No. 1 pick since Darrell Green in 1983 when they traded up to get Michigan State defensive tackle Bobby Wilson.

Gibbs lines up his one-back offense with the best trio of wide receivers in the game. The "Posse" of Art Monk, Gary Clark, and Ricky Sanders seems to get better with age. Monk needs 21 receptions to surpass Charlie Joiner for second behind Steve Largent on the all-time reception list. His regular-season consecutive-game receiving streak is 116, fourth on the all-time list. Clark was the team's offensive MVP and went to the Pro Bowl after making 75 catches for 1,112 yards. Two more yards and he will surpass Bobby Mitchell's Redskin record of 6,491 yards. Sanders had some drops among his 56 catches, but no longer has the specter of a trial for hitting a parking lot attendant with his car, having been found not guilty.

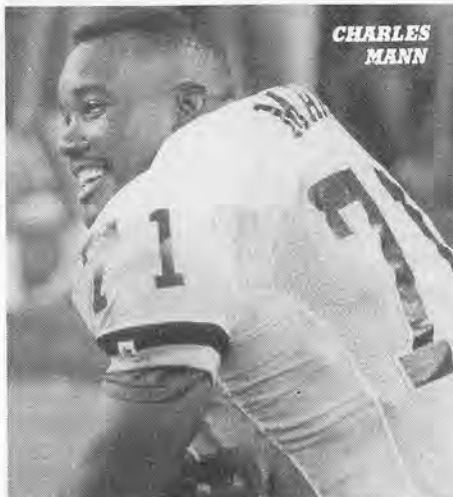
At running back, Earnest Byner responded after an injury to Gerald Riggs with the finest season of his career and his first Pro Bowl trip. Beginning with week 10, he averaged 110 yards on 26 carries and finished fourth in the league in rushing. Riggs plays well when healthy, which has been infrequent since leaving Atlanta two years ago. What the Redskins lack with Byner and Riggs is a break-away threat, so third-round draft choice Ricky Ervins of USC could become a factor if he can shake ankle injuries. Former quarterback Brian Mitchell is a factor as a backup and the Redskins added another ex-Falcon, John Settle, from the Plan B list.

Tight end Don Warren is as big a reason for the success of Gibbs's offense as anyone. The man who never makes a mistake is still going strong at age 35 with no other tight end pushing him, although the Redskins took Dennis Ransom of Texas A & M in the sixth round. Jimmie Johnson and Ron Middleton are H-backs in the power formations.

The offensive line is strong and deep. With right tackle Ed Simmons returning from a knee injury, big Joe Jacoby will move to left guard beside tackle Jim Lachey. Left guard Raleigh McKenzie will move to right guard, with Mark Schlereth and Russ Grimm both getting playing time at the guards. Jeff Bostic is the center with Ray Brown and Mark Adickes also slated to play at tackle and guard in the Redskins' rotating system.

Wilson adds depth and competition in the defensive line, where he is expected to challenge Darryl Grant opposite Tim Johnson at tackle. Eric Williams, Tracy Rocker, and James Geathers still figure inside. Outside, Charles Mann, Markus Koch, and Fred Stokes provide the pass rush. Stokes had 7½ sacks.

Linebacker Andre Collins comes off an outstanding rookie season in which he had six sacks and was compared to Jack Ham. He could move to Wilber Marshall's right side with Marshall taking on the tight ends on the left side. In the middle, the Redskins added Matt Millen from the 49ers in Plan B. After playing in Super Bowls with the Raiders and 49ers, Millen is a good omen. He will share the position with Kurt Gouveia. Monte Coleman and Ravin Caldwell are backups.



CHARLES MANN



GERALD RIGGS



ART MONK

Green remains the fastest and best one-on-one cornerback in football and was complemented by Martin Mayhew, who inherited the starting job from the injured A.J. Johnson and led the club with seven interceptions. Alvin Walton is the strong safety and Brad Edwards will replace Plan B loss Todd Bowles at free safety. Terry Hoage and Danny Copeland are Plan B additions in the backfield and will compete with Sidney Johnson and Alvoid Mays.

Chip Lohmiller missed only two of 26 field goals under 40 yards. Chris Shale was drafted to challenge punter Kelly Goodburn. Mitchell returns punts and kickoffs with wide-receiver backups Joe Howard and Walter Stanley also in the picture.

REDSKINS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
61	Adickes, Mark	G	6-4	275	30	Baylor
53	Bostic, Jeff	C	6-2	260	33	Clemson
82	Brandes, John	TE	6-2	250	27	Cameron
67	Brown, Ray	T	6-5	280	29	Arkansas St.
38	Brown, Tom	RB	6-1	228	27	Pittsburgh
24	Bryant, Kelvin	RB	6-2	195	31	North Carolina
21	Byner, Earnest	RB	5-10	215	29	East Carolina
50	Caldwell, Ravin	LB	6-3	229	28	Arkansas
84	Clark, Gary	WR	5-9	173	29	James Madison
51	Coleman, Monte	LB	6-2	230	34	Central Ark.
55	Collins, Andre	LB	6-1	230	23	Penn State
12	Conklin, Cary	QB	6-4	215	23	Washington
26	Copeland, Danny	SS	6-2	210	25	E. Kentucky
25	Dupard, Reggie	RB	5-11	205	28	SMU
27	Edwards, Brad	FS	6-2	196	25	South Carolina
64	Elewonibi, Mo.	T	6-4	282	26	BYU
97	Geathers, James	DT	6-7	290	31	Wichita State
2	Goodburn, Kelly	P	6-2	202	29	Emporia State
54	Gouveia, Kurt	LB	6-1	227	27	BYU
77	Grant, Darryl	DT	6-1	275	32	Rice
28	Green, Darrell	CB	5-8	170	31	Texas A&I
68	Grimm, Russ	G	6-3	275	32	Pittsburgh
34	Hoage, Terry	FS	6-3	201	29	Georgia
86	Hobbs, Stephen	WR	5-11	195	26	North Alabama
80	Howard, Joe	WR	5-8	170	29	Notre Dame
16	Humphries, Stan	QB	6-2	223	26	NE Louisiana
66	Jacoby, Joe	T	6-7	310	32	Louisville
47	Johnson, A.J.	CB	5-8	176	24	SW Texas St.
88	Johnson, Jimmie	TE	6-2	246	25	Howard
45	Johnson, Sidney	CB	5-9	175	26	California
78	Johnson, Tim	DT	6-3	261	26	Penn State
74	Koch, Markus	DE	6-5	275	28	Boise State
79	Lachey, Jim	T	6-6	290	28	Ohio State
98	Leverenz, Jon	LB	6-2	230	24	Minnesota
8	Lohmiller, Chip	K	6-3	213	25	Minnesota
71	Mann, Charles	DE	6-6	270	30	Nevada-Reno
58	Marshall, Wilber	LB	6-1	230	29	Florida
35	Mayhew, Martin	CB	5-8	172	26	Florida State
20	Mays, Alvoid	CB	5-9	180	25	West Virginia
63	McKenzie, Raleigh	OL	6-2	270	28	Tennessee
87	Middleton, Ron	TE	6-2	255	26	Auburn
52	Millen, Matt	LB	6-2	245	33	Penn State
30	Mitchell, Brian	RB	5-10	195	23	SW Louisiana
81	Monk, Art	WR	6-3	209	34	Syracuse
37	Riggs, Gerald	RB	6-1	232	31	Arizona State
99	Rocker, Tracy	DT	6-3	288	25	Auburn
10	Rutledge, Jeff	QB	6-1	195	34	Alabama
11	Rypien, Mark	QB	6-4	234	29	Washington St.
83	Sanders, Ricky	WR	5-11	180	29	SW Texas State
69	Schlereth, Mark	G	6-3	285	25	Idaho
23	Settle, John	RB	5-9	210	26	Appalachian St.
76	Simmons, Ed	T	6-5	300	28	E. Washington
89	Stanley, Walter	WR	5-9	180	29	Mesa
60	Stokes, Fred	DE	6-3	262	27	Georgia Southern
31	Vaughn, Clarence	SS	6-0	202	27	N. Illinois
40	Walton, Alvin	SS	6-0	180	27	Kansas
85	Warren, Don	TE	6-4	242	35	San Diego St.
48	Whisenhunt, Ken	TE	6-3	240	29	Georgia Tech
75	Williams, Eric	DT	6-4	286	29	Washington St.

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Wilson, Bobby	DT	6-2	276	Michigan State
3	Ervins, Ricky	RB	5-7	200	Southern Cal
6	Ransom, Dennis	TE	6-4	250	Texas A&M
7	Cash, Keith	WR	6-4	214	Texas
8	Spencer, Jimmy	DB	5-10	184	Florida
9	Bell, Charles	DB	5-10	182	Baylor
10	Shale, Chris	P	6-0	190	Bowling Green
11	Gulledge, Dave	DB	6-1	203	Jacksonville St.
12	McCardell, Keenan	WR	6-0	175	Nevada-Las Vegas

NFCeast

OTTIS ANDERSON



NEW YORK GIANTS

The last time a coach quit after winning a Super Bowl the team repeated. So Bill Parcells sacrificed his job to further the chances of his favorite team. He figured if it worked for San Francisco, maybe it will work for the Giants. Good luck, Ray Handley. Not only does the new coach have to follow Parcells, he has to follow the 49ers' George Seifert, who followed Bill Walsh to the top his first year on the job. By succeeding so quickly, Seifert ruined the good excuse of coaching transition.

"I'm not looking to improve; I'm here to emulate," Handley said May 15, the day Parcells surprised New York with his belated decision to hang it up.

"I just don't feel that I can give the same to protect the franchise the way I did," Parcells said, refusing to label his feelings as burnout. "You've got to do what you think is right. To be fair to the players, it's best if someone else carries the torch for a while."

Less than 10 minutes into Handley's introduction, he was asked the same question asked of Parcells: Who's your quarterback? Parcells had told people that any coach would be envious of his position—choosing between two Super Bowl-winning quarterbacks in Phil Simms and Jeff Hostetter. There's never been two on one team before, but the privilege wasn't enough to entice Parcells to stay.

"It will be based on their performance in the preseason," Handley admitted. "They will get equal opportunity. Are they both even? You bet they are."

Parcells stayed through the draft and one rookie minicamp, unable to make up his mind about staying. Then he abruptly packed it in at age 49, leaving his dream job with no plans and almost no explanation. "I just feel it's time," he said.

GIANTS 1990 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Bahr, 80 points on 29 extra points and 17 field goals... T12th
RUSHING—Anderson, 784 yards on 225 carries, 3.5 avg., 11 TDs... 8th
PASSING—Simms, 184 of 311 attempts for 2,284 yards and 15 TDs... 1st
RECEIVING—Meggett, 39 receptions for 410 yards, 10.5 average, 1 TD... T24th
INTERCEPTIONS—Walls, 6 for 80 yards, 13.3 average, 1 TD... T3rd
PUNTING—Landeta, 75 punts, 44.1 average, longest 67 yards... 1st
PUNT RETURNS—Meggett, 43 for 467 yards, 10.9 avg., 1 TD... 2nd
KICKOFF RETURNS—Meggett, 21 for 492 yards, 23.4 average... 1st
SACKS—Taylor, 10.5 average... 6th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 5 BUFFALO (N)
10 At CLEVELAND (N)
17 N.Y. JETS (N)
24 At New England

1991 SCHEDULE

		1990 SCORES
September	2 SAN FRANCISCO (N)	3-7
	8 LOS ANGELES RAMS	31-7
	15 At Chicago	—
	22 CLEVELAND	—
	29 At Dallas	28-7
October	6 PHOENIX	20-19
	14 At Pittsburgh (N)	—
	20 OPEN DATE	—
	27 WASHINGTON (N)	21-10
November	4 At Philadelphia (N)	13-31
	10 At Phoenix	24-21
	17 DALLAS	31-17
	24 At Tampa Bay	—
December	1 At Cincinnati	—
	8 PHILADELPHIA	27-20
	15 At Washington	24-20
	21 HOUSTON	—

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SS

The Giants sat back quietly and patiently during the subpar draft and confidently feel they improved themselves despite picking last on each round. Parcells and general manager George Young, mindful of Parcells' indecision, kept Handley from quitting coaching and entering law school by naming him offensive coordinator a month before Parcells quit. "It was my outstanding job as offensive coordinator the last three weeks that led me to this," Handley quipped.

Now, he will earn his keep if Simms returns 100 percent from a foot injury that knocked him out of last year's fun. Ordinarily, it was Parcells' rule that a player could not lose a job because of injury. But this is not an ordinary situation. Hostetler won the Super Bowl in the seventh start of his obviously underappreciated career. There are factors that could make Handley's most important decision easier. If Hostetler holds out to bring his \$425,000 pay-

check closer to the \$1.5 million Simms earns, he may lose out on valuable time. If Simms has complications with his foot injury, it may become quickly apparent it is time to pass the torch. Foot injuries are tricky. Nobody expected Simms to be out for the rest of last season when he walked off the field against the Bills more than a month before the Super Bowl. Matt Cavanaugh, who should get credit for helping to develop Hostetler, is back as the third quarterback.

More bothersome than the quarterback dilemma is the health of Mark Bavaro, who fought an uphill offseason battle with his knee to determine his future. If the superb tight end decides he can no longer gut it out, Handley will have to figure out how to turn the receiving of Howard Cross and the blocking of Bob Mrosko into one Bavaro.

The Giants surprised observers by making Michigan fullback Jarrod Bunch their No. 1 pick. He will challenge Maurice Carthon at the position that makes their running attack so powerful. Bunch is a weightlifter who deadlifted 600 pounds when he was a 198-pound high schooler, 50 pounds ago. Ottis Anderson is back for another round at age 34 and last year's No. 1 pick, Rodney Hampton, is fully recovered from a broken leg. Lewis Tillman is an effective performer when he gets a chance and Dave Meggett is the third-down specialist by which others are compared.

In their desire to upgrade the receiving corps, the Giants took Stanford's Ed McCaffrey in the third round. Big at 6-5, and productive in college, McCaffrey shocked onlookers with a 4.45 in the 40 at the team's first minicamp. He figures to get plenty of playing time behind Mark Ingram and Stephen Baker, two underused talents who proved their worth in the playoffs. Stacy Robinson and Atlanta Plan B pickup James Milling also will compete.

The Giants waited until the fourth round to select an offensive lineman, Maryland's Clarence Jones. With center Bart Oates deciding to stay after passing the bar, the starting lineup looks the same. Left tackle John Elliott is blossoming into an all-pro candidate opposite Doug Riesenberg. Guards William Roberts and Eric Moore will continue to be pushed by

Bob Kratch, with Brian Williams, another No. 1 pick, in reserve with Tom Rehder.

Replacing defensive coordinator Bill Belichick, now head coach in Cleveland, is linebackers coach Al Groh. True to form, the Giants drafted linebackers in rounds two, five, and six to add to the collection. No. 2 is Colorado's Kanavis McGhee, pushing 260 pounds in the Giant mold. If he can't play linebacker, he can rush the passer. That's where the team must improve, so Mike Fox is expected to push Eric Dorsey for a starting job at left end. Nose tackle Erik Howard is coming off a very good year and Leonard Marshall showed he can still rise to the occasion. But Marshall led the down linemen with only 4½ sacks.

Lawrence Taylor had 10½ sacks in season 10 and returns as inspiration and example as well as intimidating force. But he will miss Parcells more than anybody. Pro Bowler Pepper Johnson was called the best linebacker in football last year by no less an authority than Carl Banks, who fought through a wrist injury to help Johnson make the Giants the toughest team in the league to score against. The Giants were fourth against the rush. Steve DeOssie is the run-stopping inside companion to Johnson and Gary Reasons plays in the pass defenses. Johnnie Cooks and Lawrence McGrew will return as team leaders to counsel second-year man Bobby Abrams and draft picks McGhee, Tony Moss, and Corey Miller.

Mark Collins is about as good a cornerback playing today and Everson Walls is about as smart as any. Perry Williams is an experienced backup and seventh-rounder Simmie Carter of Southern Mississippi will get a look. At safety, the return of Adrian White from knee surgery will add to the depth if not challenge starters Greg Jackson at strong and Myron Guyton at free. Both had outstanding seasons. Eighth-rounder Lamar McGriggs of Western Illinois quickly caught the eye of Parcells at the minicamp. Reserve Dave Duerson returns, provided Handley thinks a "geriatric crew" is as important as Parcells did.

Sean Landeta is the best punter in the league. Place-kicker Matt Bahr won the Super Bowl and beat out Raul Allegre. Meggett is the best return man in the league.

GIANTS VETERAN ROSTER

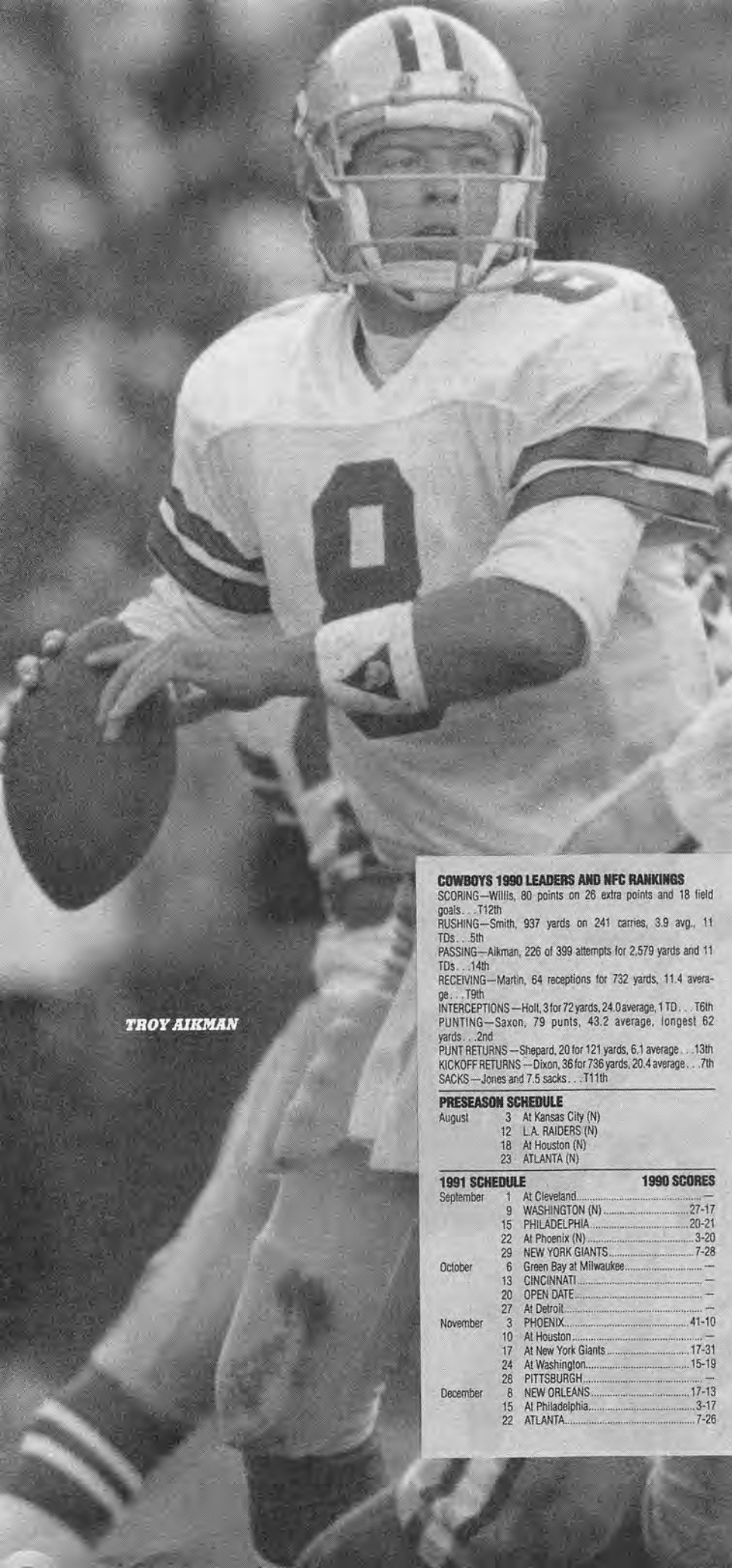
no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
51	Abrams, Bobby	LB	6-3	230	24	Michigan
2	Allegre, Raul	K	5-10	167	32	Texas
24	Anderson, Ottis	RB	6-2	225	34	Miami
9	Bahr, Matt	K	5-10	175	35	Penn State
85	Baker, Stephen	WR	5-8	160	27	Fresno State
58	Banks, Carl	LB	6-4	235	29	Michigan State
89	Bavaro, Mark	TE	6-4	245	28	Notre Dame
46	Brown, Roger	CB	6-0	196	25	Virginia Tech
44	Carthon, Maurice	RB	6-1	225	30	Arkansas St.
6	Cavanaugh, Matt	QB	6-2	210	35	Pittsburgh
98	Cooks, Johnnie	LB	6-4	251	33	Mississippi St.
25	Collins, Mark	CB	5-10	190	27	Cal-Fullerton
87	Cross, Howard	TE	6-5	245	24	Alabama
99	DeOssie, Steve	LB	6-2	248	29	Boston College
77	Dorsey, Eric	DE	6-5	280	27	Notre Dame
26	Duerson, Dave	S	6-1	208	31	Notre Dame
76	Elliott, John	T	6-7	305	26	Michigan
93	Fox, Mike	DE	6-5	275	24	West Virginia
29	Guyton, Myron	DB	6-1	205	24	E. Kentucky
27	Hampton, Rodney	RB	5-11	215	22	Georgia
15	Hostetler, Jeff	QB	6-3	212	30	West Virginia
74	Howard, Erik	NT	6-4	268	27	Washington St.
82	Ingram, Mark	WR	5-10	188	26	Michigan State
47	Jackson, Greg	S	6-1	200	25	LSU
79	James, Clint	DE	6-6	270	24	LSU
52	Johnson, Pepper	LB	6-3	248	27	Ohio State
	Kaumeyer, Thom	S	5-11	190	24	Oregon
61	Kratch, Bob	G	6-3	288	25	Iowa
5	Landeta, Sean	P	6-0	200	29	Towson State
70	Marshall, Leonard	DE	6-3	285	30	LSU
57	McGrew, Lawrence	LB	6-6	260	34	Southern Cal
30	Meggett, David	RB	5-7	180	25	Towson St.
	Milling, James	WR	5-9	156	26	Maryland
60	Moore, Eric	T	6-5	290	26	Indiana
80	Mrosko, Robert	TE	6-5	270	26	Penn State
65	Oates, Bart	C	6-3	265	33	BYU
55	Reasons, Gary	LB	6-4	234	29	NW Louisiana
64	Rehder, Tom	OL	6-7	290	26	Notre Dame
72	Riesenberg, Doug	T	6-5	275	26	California
81	Robinson, Stacy	WR	5-11	186	29	N. Dakota St.
66	Roberts, William	T	6-5	280	29	Ohio State
11	Simms, Phil	QB	6-3	214	36	Morehead St.
56	Taylor, Lawrence	LB	6-3	243	32	North Carolina
21	Thompson, Reyna	CB	6-0	193	28	Baylor
34	Tillman, Lewis	RB	6-0	195	25	Jackson State
28	Walls, Everson	CB	6-1	194	32	Grambling
73	Washington, John	DE	6-4	275	28	Oklahoma St.
36	White, Adrian	S	6-0	200	27	Florida
59	Williams, Brian	OL	6-5	300	25	Minnesota
23	Williams, Perry	CB	6-2	203	30	N.C. State

DRAFTTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Bunch, Jarrod	RB	6-2	248	Michigan
2	McGhee, Kanavis	LB	6-4	257	Colorado
3	McCaffrey, Ed	WR	6-5	210	Stanford
4	Jones, Clarence	T	6-6	286	Maryland
5	Moss, Tony	LB	6-3	233	Florida State
6	Miller, Corey	LB	6-1	252	South Carolina
7	Carter, Simmie	DB	5-11	186	Southern Miss
8	McGriggs, Lamar	DB	6-3	215	W. Illinois
9	Bouldin, Jerry	WR	5-11	190	Mississippi St.
10	Cristobal, Luis	G	6-3	280	Miami
11	Popson, Ted	TE	6-4	240	Portland State
12	Wanke, Larry	QB	6-2	190	John Carroll



PHIL SIMMS



TROY AIKMAN

COWBOYS 1990 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Willis, 80 points on 26 extra points and 18 field goals... T12th
 RUSHING—Smith, 937 yards on 241 carries, 3.9 avg., 11 TDs... 5th
 PASSING—Aikman, 226 of 399 attempts for 2,579 yards and 11 TDs... 14th
 RECEIVING—Martin, 64 receptions for 732 yards, 11.4 average... 19th
 INTERCEPTIONS—Holt, 3 for 72 yards, 24.0 average, 1 TD... T6th
 PUNTING—Saxon, 79 punts, 43.2 average, longest 62 yards... 2nd
 PUNT RETURNS—Shepard, 20 for 121 yards, 6.1 average... 13th
 KICKOFF RETURNS—Dixon, 36 for 736 yards, 20.4 average... 7th
 SACKS—Jones and 7.5 sacks... T11th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	3	At Kansas City (N)
	12	L.A. RAIDERS (N)
	18	At Houston (N)
	23	ATLANTA (N)

1991 SCHEDULE

September	1	At Cleveland	27-17
	9	WASHINGTON (N)	20-21
	15	PHILADELPHIA	3-20
	22	At Phoenix (N)	7-28
	29	NEW YORK GIANTS	—
October	6	Green Bay at Milwaukee	—
	13	CINCINNATI	—
	20	OPEN DATE	—
	27	At Detroit	—
November	3	PHOENIX	41-10
	10	At Houston	—
	17	At New York Giants	17-31
	24	At Washington	15-19
	28	PITTSBURGH	—
December	8	NEW ORLEANS	17-13
	15	At Philadelphia	3-17
	22	ATLANTA	7-26

1990 SCORES

DALLAS COWBOYS

From one victory to one game away from the playoffs, the Cowboys obviously are headed in the right direction fast. Owner Jerry Jones and coach Jimmy Johnson are in a hurry. Their game plan involves speed. To compete in the biggest and best division, they want to be quicker and faster. It's awfully hard to get bigger than the Giants, Redskins, or Eagles, but the Cowboys are trying that, too.

"We have to become a more physical football team. We have to get more physical type of players. The Giants, Philly, and Washington are more physical than we are," Johnson said.

Draft day belonged to the Cowboys, thanks again to the Herschel Walker and Steve Walsh trades, and they used it to select 10 players in the first four rounds who will revamp the team. Just because the Cowboys were 7-9 last year and came within an injury to quarterback Troy Aikman of making the playoffs doesn't mean the J-boys are done rebuilding. There are changes scheduled for every area of offense and defense.

They start with No. 1 pick Russell Maryland, a defensive tackle who used to weigh 340 but pared down to 280 when he played for Johnson at Miami. Johnson still likes the Hurricanes. Had he not traded Walsh, his quarterback at Miami, he might have been in the playoffs. After Aikman was hurt, the Cowboys lost their final two games while Walsh ended up in the playoffs with the Saints.

The Cowboys were 28th in offense last season, but one thing that will stay the same is Aikman. His shoulder injury now repaired, he is ready to pick up where he left off and eager to assimilate the new offense of coordinator Norv Turner. Before Aikman was hurt, the Cowboys had run off four consecutive victories for the first time since 1986. They had scored 45 percent of their 244-point season total. Aikman is the real deal. One of the high draft choices the Cowboys used was to find better backup help for Aikman. They took Oregon's Bill Musgrave, who will compete with Babe Laufenberg and Cliff Stoudt.

Johnson replaced David Shula with Turner, who brings Ernie Zampese's offense from the Rams. "We are going to ask Troy to do some things a little differently and we're going to run a pass offense very similar to what we ran in Los Angeles," Turner said. "We get the ball thrown quickly. We're going to speed Troy up and try to take some of the pass-rush pressure off him. We throw routes on the move. We use moving routes with our receivers rather than stopping and starting. It allows the quarterback to throw the ball much quicker."

Tennessee's Alvin Harper, the second first-round choice, appears ready to step into the starting lineup opposite Michael Irvin, giving Aikman two big targets. For speed, the Cowboys are counting on last year's No. 2, Alexander Wright, who didn't pay enough attention as a rookie but ran a 4.14 in late April to demonstrate he is better prepared now. Kelvin Martin and converted running back James Dixon figure as backup receivers. At tight end, the Cowboys added Plan B blocker Alfredo Roberts from Kansas City. With Jay Novacek, Robert Awalt, and Green Bay Plan B addition Craig Hudson, Johnson has so many qualified tight ends he might be tempted to play two or three at a time.

Emmitt Smith is the running game. He was everything Johnson wanted as a rookie and

more, gaining 937 yards and scoring 11 touchdowns. This year, he will get help from fourth-rounder Curvin Richards and from another former Hurricane, Alonzo Highsmith. After an injury-plagued and unhappy career as the Oilers' No. 1 pick in 1987, Highsmith joined the Cowboys and started five games before going on injured reserve. If he can stay healthy for once, Johnson thinks he has a gem. Last year's Plan B addition Keith Jones is healthy again and is the fastest of all the backs. All-purpose back Daryl Johnston can be used in a variety of situations.

Two 300-pounders, James Richards and Eric Williams, and another Miami product, Mike Sullivan, join the fray on the offensive line. With guard Crawford Ker gone via Plan B, 315-pound Nate Newton could move back to left guard and allow Green Bay Plan B pickup Alan Veingrad to compete with Kevin Gogan at right tackle. Since Newton played extremely well at right tackle last year, these plans could change, especially if Jeff Zimmerman or the rookies come through at guard. Left tackle Mark Tuinei, center Mark Stepnoski, and right guard John Gesek are set, but the competition elsewhere will be fierce.

Maryland and Danny Noonan figure to anchor the inside of coordinator Dave Wannstedt's defensive line. Maryland will have to beat out Dean Hamel. Already, Johnson has penciled in Jimmie Jones at one of the ends, where he played with Maryland in college. Tony Tolbert could be the other starting end, leaving Jim Jeffcoat and Danny Stubbs fighting for playing time in more than pass-rushing situations. Fourth-rounder Tony Hill of Tennessee-Chattanooga, no relation to the former Cowboy receiver, will have to show something to earn a spot.

At linebacker, the Cowboys bade good-bye to leading tackler Eugene Lockhart and outside backup David Howard, both selected by New England in the trade that brought Maryland. The Cowboys wave hello to Jesse Solomon, finally eager to play in Dallas since arriving from Minnesota in the Walker trade. With Solomon, Ken Norton, and second-round choice Dixon Edwards of Michigan, Wannstedt has the kind of fast linebackers he prefers in his scheme. Furthermore, fourth-rounder Kevin Harris of Texas Southern and fifth-rounder Darrick Brownlow of Illinois are expected to challenge for playing time. Moving inside to fill Lockhart's spot is Jack Del Rio, with Willis Crockett backing up.

Issiac Holt was outstanding at left cornerback last year, but is the only starter in the secondary who is a lock. On the other side, Manny Hendrix may get a challenge from former starter Robert Williams. The Cowboys also expect injured 1990 draft choice Kenneth Gant to contribute. Injury-prone Vince Albritton could return to reclaim his strong-safety spot from James Washington, who then could challenge Ray Horton at free safety. Last

year's fifth-round pick, Stan Smagala, broke his arm in the third game, but he is fast and fits into Wannstedt's style. Plan B addition Odie Harris and Bill Bates are available.

Ken Willis could improve his kickoffs, but his field-goal kicking was accurate. Punter Mike Saxon remains steady. Dixon and Martin are kick-returners. Derrick Shepard averaged only 6.1 yards per punt return, last in the NFC, so that job is up for grabs.

COWBOYS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
34	Agee, Tommie	FB	6-0	223	27	Auburn
8	Alkman, Troy	QB	6-4	218	25	UCLA
36	Albritton, Vince	S	6-2	212	29	Washington
31	Ankrom, Scott	S	6-1	194	25	TCU
89	Awalt, Rob	TE	6-5	238	27	San Diego St.
40	Bates, Bill	S	6-1	199	30	Tennessee
44	Brooks, Michael	DB	6-0	195	24	N. C. St.
79	Broughton, Willie	DT	6-5	280	27	Miami
	Childress, Freddie	DL	6-4	349	25	Arkansas
90	Crockett, Willis	LB	6-3	234	25	Georgia Tech
55	Del Rio, Jack	LB	6-4	232	28	Southern Cal
21	Dixon, James	WR	5-10	184	24	Houston
85	Folsom, Steve	TE	6-5	240	33	Utah
38	Francis, Ron	CB	5-9	188	27	Baylor
29	Gant, Kenneth	CB	5-11	181	24	Albany State
63	Gesek, John	G	6-5	283	28	Cal St.-Sacramento
	Glowicz, Rich	TE	6-4	245	26	Michigan State
66	Gogan, Kevin	DL	6-7	311	27	Washington
78	Hamel, Dean	DT	6-3	271	30	Tulsa
50	Harper, Dave	LB	6-1	220	25	Humboldt State
	Harris, Odie	S	6-0	190	25	Sam Houston
70	Hellesrae, Dale	OL	6-5	275	29	SMU
45	Hendrix, Manny	CB	5-10	185	27	Utah
32	Highsmith, Alonzo	FB	6-1	237	26	Miami
30	Holt, Issiac	CB	6-2	198	29	Alcorn State
20	Horton, Ray	S	5-11	186	31	Washington
99	Howard, David	LB	6-2	233	30	Long Beach St.
	Hudson, Craig	TE	6-3	245	24	Wisconsin
88	Irvine, Michael	WR	6-2	199	25	Miami
77	Jeffcoat, Jim	DE	6-5	264	30	Arizona State
48	Johnston, Daryl	RB	6-2	238	25	Syracuse
97	Jones, Jimmie	DT	6-4	272	25	Miami
26	Jones, Keith	RB	5-10	180	25	Nebraska
15	Laufenberg, Babe	QB	6-3	214	32	Indiana
56	Lockhart, Eugene	LB	6-2	229	30	Houston
83	Martin, Kelvin	WR	5-9	163	26	Boston College
61	Newton, Nate	G	6-3	322	30	Florida A&M
73	Noonan, Danny	DL	6-4	266	26	Nebraska
51	Norton, Ken	LB	6-2	237	26	UCLA
84	Novacek, Jay	TE	6-4	230	29	Wyoming
	Roberts, Alfredo	TE	6-3	246	26	Miami
4	Saxon, Mike	P	6-3	200	29	San Diego St.
87	Shepard, Derrick	WR	5-10	181	27	Oklahoma
42	Smagala, Stan	CB	5-10	184	23	Notre Dame
22	Smith, Emmitt	RB	5-9	203	22	Florida
57	Smith, Vinson	LB	6-2	225	26	East Carolina
64	Solomon, Jesse	LB	6-0	235	28	Florida State
53	Stepnoski, Mark	OL	6-2	266	24	Pittsburgh
18	Stoudt, Cliff	QB	6-4	222	36	Youngstown St.
96	Stubbs, Daniel	DE	6-4	264	26	Miami
92	Tolbert, Tony	DE	6-6	254	24	Texas-El Paso
71	Tuinei, Mark	T	6-5	293	31	Hawaii
	Veingrad, Alan	T	6-5	281	28	East Texas St.
	Wamsley, Reginald	FB	5-10	215	23	Southern Miss
37	Washington, James	S	6-1	195	26	UCLA
23	Williams, Robert	CB	5-10	186	29	Baylor
1	Willis, Ken	K	5-11	189	29	Kentucky
81	Wright, Alexander	WR	6-0	189	24	Auburn
76	Zimmerman, Jeff	G	6-3	313	26	Florida

DRAFTED

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Maryland, Russell	DT	6-1	274	Miami
1	Harper, Alvin	WR	6-3	206	Tennessee
2	Edwards, Dixon	LB	6-0	220	Michigan State
3	Myles, Godfrey	LB	6-1	240	Florida
3	Richards, James	G	6-5	291	California
3	Williams, Eric	T	6-5	304	Central St.
4	Richards, Curvin	RB	5-9	200	Pittsburgh
4	Musgrave, Bill	QB	6-2	200	Oregon
4	Hill, Tony	DE	6-6	241	UT-Chattanooga
4	Harris, Kevin	DE	6-5	240	Texas South
5	Brownlow, Darrick	LB	5-10	237	Illinois
6	Sullivan, Mike	G	6-3	278	Miami
7	Leit, Leon	DT	6-6	273	Emporia State
9	Mays, Damon	WR	5-9	165	Missouri
10	Love, Sean	G	6-3	282	Penn State
11	Boles, Tony	RB	6-1	195	Michigan
12	Brown, Larry	DB	5-11	187	TCU



MICHAEL IRVIN



EMMITT SMITH



RUSSELL MARYLAND



DANNY NOONAN

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

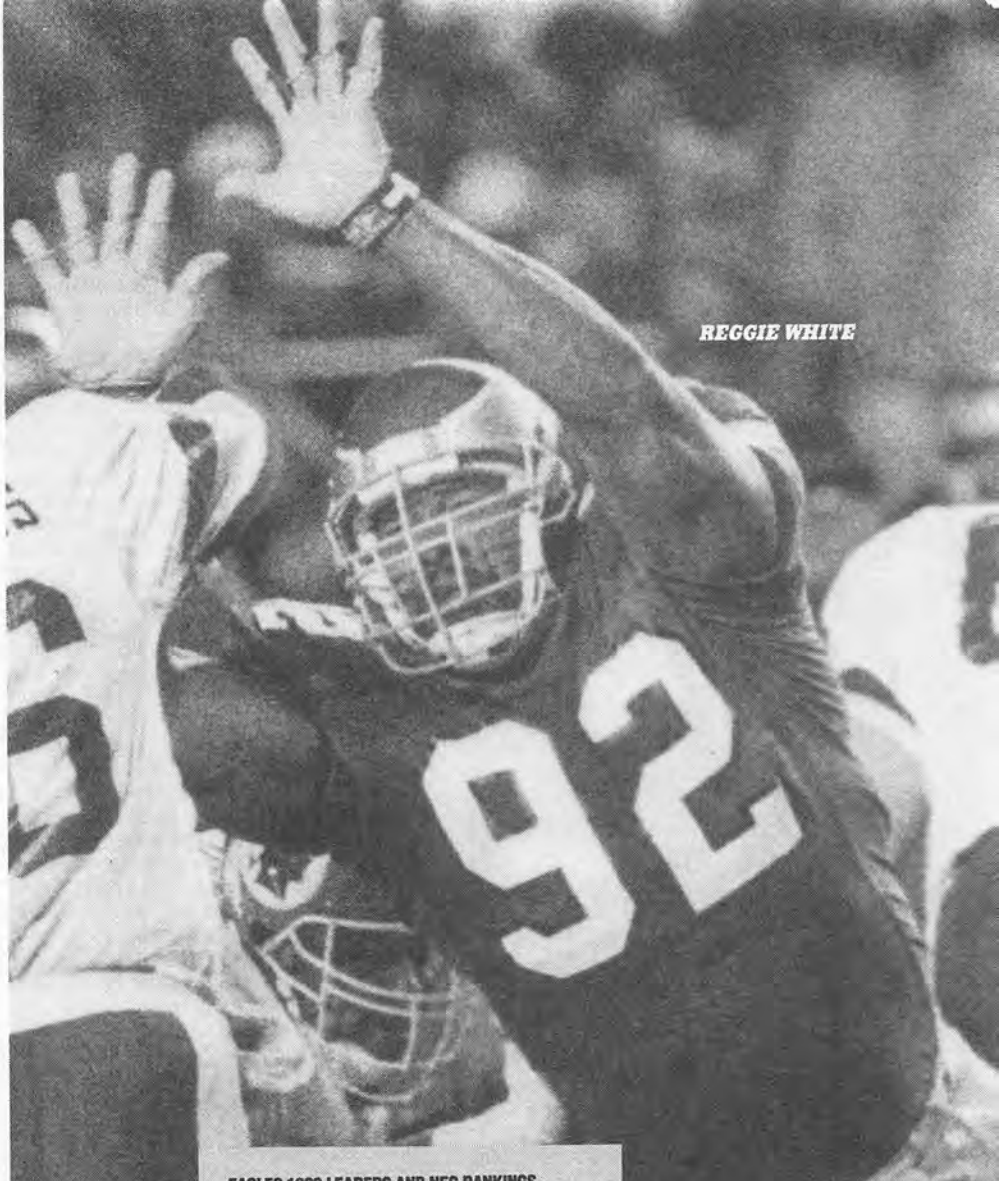
Rich Kotite is on the spot. The new coach of the Eagles must not only get his team into the playoffs, he must win a playoff game. Isn't that what cost his predecessor the job? Buddy Ryan promised a Super Bowl in five years and lost three playoff games instead. Kotite might not win, but at least he has kept his mouth shut, something Ryan never was able to do.

Kotite is letting the players do the talking. They set an all-time record for earliest players-only meeting, discussing their problems April 1 and deciding to bury the hatchet somewhere other than in each other's backs. Quarterback Randall Cunningham had been blamed by defensive tackle Reggie White and others for contributing to Ryan's downfall. But all is well now in Philly, they say. The Eagles even drafted a couple of blockers to help Cunningham out. Amazingly, he has been able to compile astounding numbers behind a make-shift offensive line.

Kotite assumes control in the face of history that suggests such a change is a bad idea. Since 1980, six other NFL coaches have been fired after leading their teams to the playoffs. Every time, the team has backslid. Not only did Ryan leave, his defense left with the exit of coordinator Jeff Fisher to the Rams. Bud Carson takes over a bunch of athletes loyal to Ryan and conditioned to one system. How fast can they adapt?

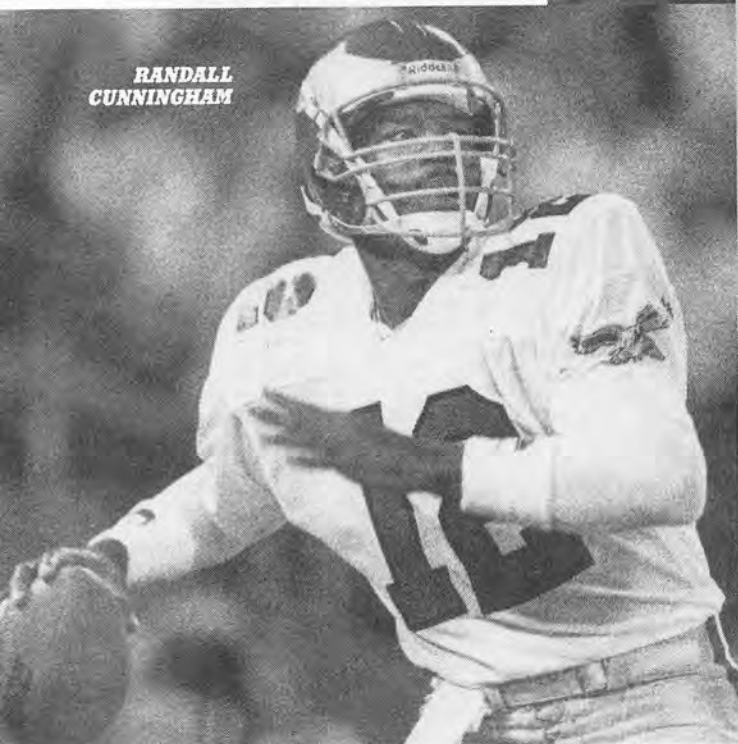
Fortunately, Kotite and Cunningham are on the same page on the other side of the ball. After a short adjustment period last season, new coordinator Kotite and talented quarterback Cunningham reached a meeting of the minds. Kotite instilled more discipline and pattern into the offense, but eventually allowed Cunningham the freedom to improvise that sets him apart from normal quarterbacks. The team led the league in rushing because the quarterback ran for 942 yards.

When not running, Cunningham found time to complete 58 percent of his passes for 3,466



REGGIE WHITE

RANDALL CUNNINGHAM



EAGLES 1990 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Ruzek, 108 points on 45 extra points and 21 field goals. . . 4th
RUSHING—Cunningham, 942 yards on 118 carries, 8.0 avg., 5 TDs. . . 4th
PASSING—Cunningham, 271 of 465 attempts for 3,466 yards and 30 TDs. . . 2nd
RECEIVING—Byars, 81 receptions for 819 yards, 10.1 avg., 3 TDs. . . 3rd
INTERCEPTIONS—Hopkins, 5 for 45 yards, 9.0 average. . . 14th
PUNTING—Feagles, 72 punts, 42.0 average, longest 60 yards. . . 6th
PUNT RETURNS—Harris, 28 for 214 yards, 7.6 average. . . 10th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Hargrove, 19 for 341 yards, 17.9 average. . . unranked
SACKS—White, 16.0 sacks. . . 2nd

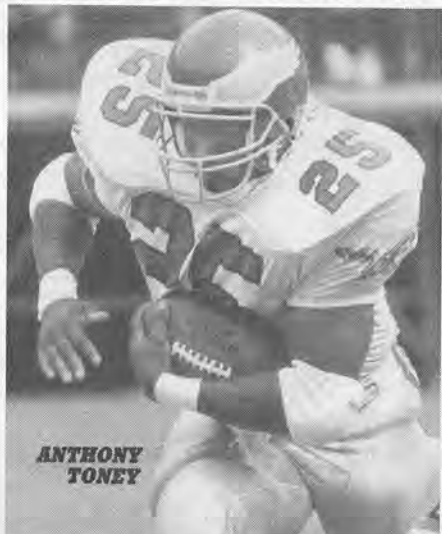
PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July	28	Buffalo at London, England
August	3	At N.Y. Jets (N)
	10	At Cincinnati (N)
	17	PITTSBURGH (N)
	23	INDIANAPOLIS (N)

1991 SCHEDULE		1990 SCORES
September	1 At Green Bay	31-0
	8 PHOENIX	21-23
	15 At Dallas	21-20
	22 PITTSBURGH	—
	30 At Washington (N)	7-13
October	6 At Tampa Bay	—
	13 NEW ORLEANS	—
	20 OPEN DATE	—
	27 SAN FRANCISCO	—
November	4 NEW YORK GIANTS (N)	31-13
	10 At Cleveland	—
	17 CINCINNATI	—
	24 At Phoenix	23-21
December	2 At Houston (N)	—
	8 At New York Giants	20-27
	15 DALLAS	17-3
	22 WASHINGTON	28-14

yards, 30 touchdowns, and only 13 interceptions. He did it behind a suspect offensive line while throwing to two rookie wide receivers. Without him, the Eagles don't have a snowball's chance in the NFC East. They drafted injured Miami quarterback Craig Erickson in the fifth round and have Jim McMahon and Don McPherson in reserve, but no team in football relies more on its quarterback than the Eagles do, not even the 49ers, who have Steve Young behind Joe Montana.

Rookie receivers Fred Barnett and Calvin Williams quickly developed into big-time threats, filling the void left by the departure of Mike Quick. Barnett is the deep threat, averaging 20 yards a catch. Another second-year



ANTHONY TONEY

receiver, Mike Bellamy, is expected to join the others after a season of injury. Barnett and Williams caught 17 touchdown passes, but running back Keith Byars and tight end Keith Jackson were Cunningham's primary targets.

Byars, who ran only 37 times from scrimmage, caught 81 passes for a 10-yard average and created a position of his own to accommodate his unusual skills. Neither running back nor wide receiver, Byars is vital to the attack, taking pressure off everyone else in the offense. Not only does he run and catch, he threw four passes and completed all four for touchdowns, compiling a passer rating of 158.3. Jackson is the league's best receiving tight end, with Mickey Shuler in reserve.

At running back, besides Cunningham, the Eagles found Heath Sherman, who accounted

for 685 yards and a 4.2 average in the league-leading attack, but his two fumbles in the play-off loss are bothersome. Anthony Toney, Thomas Sanders, and Roger Vick are on the roster and the Eagles added Auburn's James Joseph and Houston's Chuck Weatherspoon in later rounds to challenge.

The offensive line is where change is needed and expected. So eager were the Eagles to land Tennessee tackle Antone Davis that they gave up next year's No. 1 pick for the opportunity to move up and grab him. To underscore their desperation on the line, they made Auburn strongman Rob Selby their third-round choice. He bench-pressed a school-record 525 pounds and can play guard or tackle. The Eagles drafted another guard, Clemson's Eric Harmon, in the 10th round and added San Diego's Dennis McKnight via Plan B. On a line that started tackles Reggie Singletary and Ron Heller, guards Ron Solt and Mike Schad, and center David Alexander, every rookie and newcomer has a chance to compete, as do reserves Ben Tamburello, Bruce Collie, and Cecil Gray. Alexander had the best year and he is coming off knee surgery. If Matt Darwin recovers from a knee injury, he could regain the left-tackle spot. Kolite would like Davis and Selby to anchor the right side.

Carson will play a more conventional 4-3 defense with more zone coverage, but the players will likely remain the same. There are few front fours anywhere near as good as Willie, Mike Pitts, Jerome Brown, and Clyde Simmons with Mike Golic and Steve Kaufusi in reserve. They hope for a rebound from an overweight Brown, who slipped from 10 sacks in 1989 to one last year and was cited as the best example of a lack of discipline that ultimately doomed Ryan.

The linebacking is limited in talent and depth. Left outside backer Seth Joyner led the club in tackles and should be getting Pro Bowl consideration. He also finished second to White's 15 sacks with 7½. But other than Joyner, the Eagles are thin. Middle man Byron



KEITH BYARS

Evans is not as popular with the new staff as he was with the old and the only reserve is smallish Britt Hager. Converted small-college end Jesse Small still hasn't demonstrated the hang of it at right linebacker. The Eagles drafted three linebackers, starting with fourth-rounder William Thomas of Texas A & M. Notre Dame's Scott Kowalkowski also has a chance to do something in the middle.

Ben Smith had to move from safety to corner as a rookie, but he responded well enough to offer hope of an excellent tandem with Eric Allen. At safety, the Eagles lost three backups to Plan B, so they made North Carolina State's Jesse Campbell their second-round choice in hopes that he will eventually replace strong safety Andre Waters. Meanwhile, Waters will play beside free safety Wes Hopkins.

Jeff Feagles finished among the top 10 punters and Roger Ruzek is an adequate place-kicker. Reserve receiver Rod Harris boosted the kick- and punt-returning after coming from Dallas.

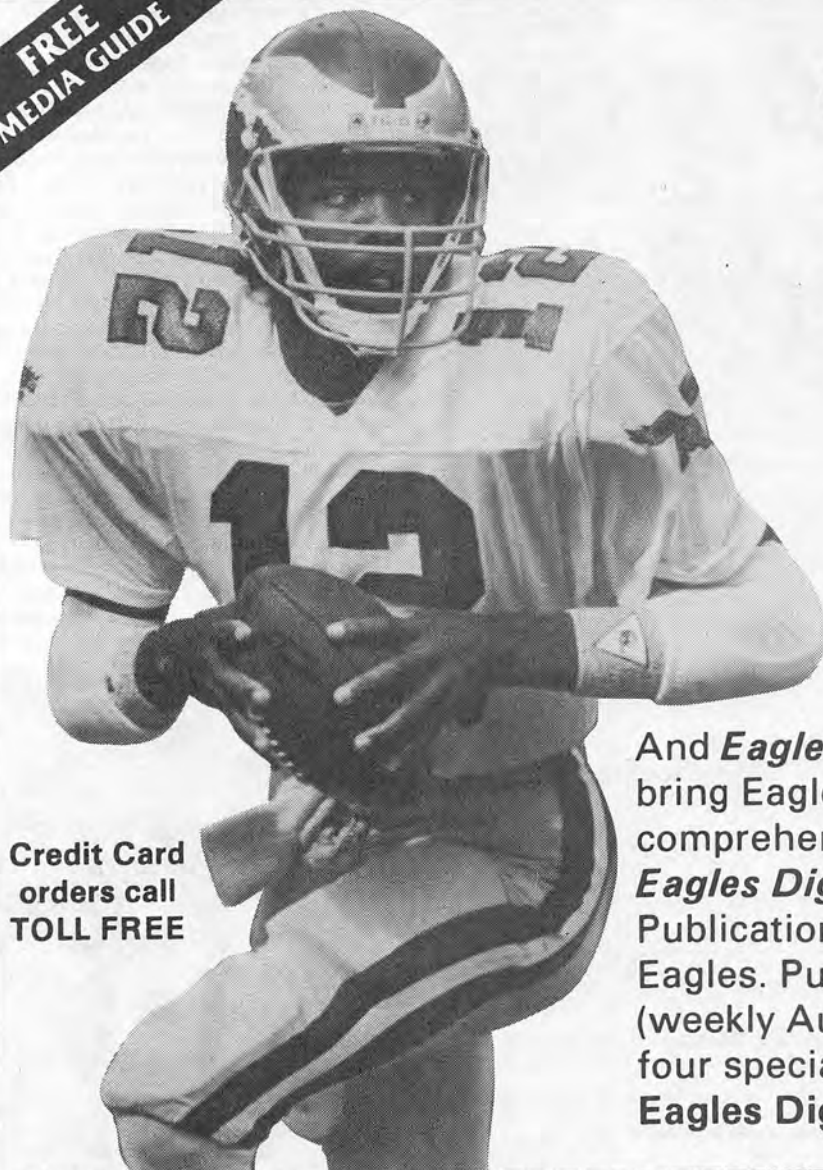
EAGLES VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
72	Alexander, David	C	6-3	282	26	Tulsa
21	Allen, Eric	CB	5-10	188	25	Arizona State
86	Barnett, Fred	WR	6-0	203	24	Arkansas St.
81	Bellamy, Mike	WR	6-0	195	24	Illinois
42	Booby, John	CB	6-0	182	25	TCU
99	Brown, Jerome	DT	6-2	295	25	Miami
41	Byars, Keith	RB	6-1	238	27	Ohio State
97	Chupura, Dick	DT	6-3	280	26	Missouri
69	Collie, Bruce	G	6-6	275	28	Texas-Arlington
12	Cunningham, Randall	QB	6-4	203	27	UNLV
78	Darwin, Matt	T	6-4	275	28	Texas A&M
56	Evans, Byron	LB	6-2	235	26	Arizona
5	Feagles, Jeff	P	6-0	198	24	Miami
90	Golic, Mike	DT	6-5	275	28	Notre Dame
71	Gray, Cecil	G-DT	6-4	264	22	North Carolina
54	Hager, Britt	LB	6-1	222	24	Texas
95	Harris, Al	LB	6-5	245	34	Arizona State
80	Harris, Rod	WR	5-10	183	24	Texas A&M
73	Heller, Ron	T	6-6	280	28	Penn State
48	Hopkins, Wes	FS	6-1	215	29	SMU
88	Jackson, Keith	TE	6-2	250	25	Oklahoma
83	Jackson, Kenny	WR	6-0	180	28	Penn State
46	Jenkins, Izel	CB	5-10	191	26	N. C. State
59	Joyner, Seth	LB	6-2	240	26	UTEP
94	Kaufusi, Steve	DE	6-4	274	27	BYU
62	McKnight, Dennis	OL	6-3	280	31	Drake
9	McMahon, Jim	QB	6-1	190	31	BYU
1	McPherson, Don	QB	6-1	193	25	Syracuse
74	Pitts, Mike	DT	6-5	277	30	Alabama
55	Rose, Ken	LB	6-1	216	28	UNLV
7	Ruzek, Roger	K	6-1	195	30	Weber State
45	Sanders, Thomas	RB	5-11	203	29	Texas A&M
79	Schad, Mike	G	6-5	290	27	Queens (Canada)
23	Sherman, Heath	RB	6-0	190	23	Texas A&I
86	Shuler, Mickey	TE	6-3	231	34	Penn State
96	Simmons, Clyde	DE	6-6	275	26	W. Carolina
68	Singletary, Reggie	T	6-3	285	26	N. C. State
52	Small, Jesse	LB	6-3	239	24	E. Kentucky
26	Smith, Ben	DB	5-11	183	23	Georgia
63	Smith, Darryle	T	6-5	278	26	Tennessee
66	Solt, Ron	G	6-3	288	28	Maryland
61	Tamburello, Ben	OL	6-3	278	26	Auburn
25	Toney, Anthony	RB	6-0	227	28	Texas A&M
43	Vick, Roger	RB	6-3	235	26	Texas A&M
20	Waters, Andre	SS	5-11	199	28	Cheyney
92	White, Reggie	DE	6-5	285	29	Tennessee
89	Williams, Calvin	WR	5-11	181	23	Purdue

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Davis, Antone	OT	6-4	237	Tennessee
2	Campbell, Jesse	DB	6-2	212	N.C. State
3	Selby, Rob	T	6-4	291	Auburn
4	Thomas, William	LB	6-3	207	Texas A&M
5	Erickson, Craig	QB	6-2	195	Miami
6	Harmon, Andrew	DB	6-4	265	Kent State
7	Joseph, James	RB	6-2	222	Auburn
8	Kowalkowski, Scott	LB	6-0	230	Notre Dame
9	Weatherspoon, Chuck	RB	5-7	230	Houston
10	Harmon, Eric	G	6-1	280	Clemson
11	Flores, Mike	DE	6-3	240	Louisville
12	Beavers, Darrell	LB	6-3	228	Morehead St.

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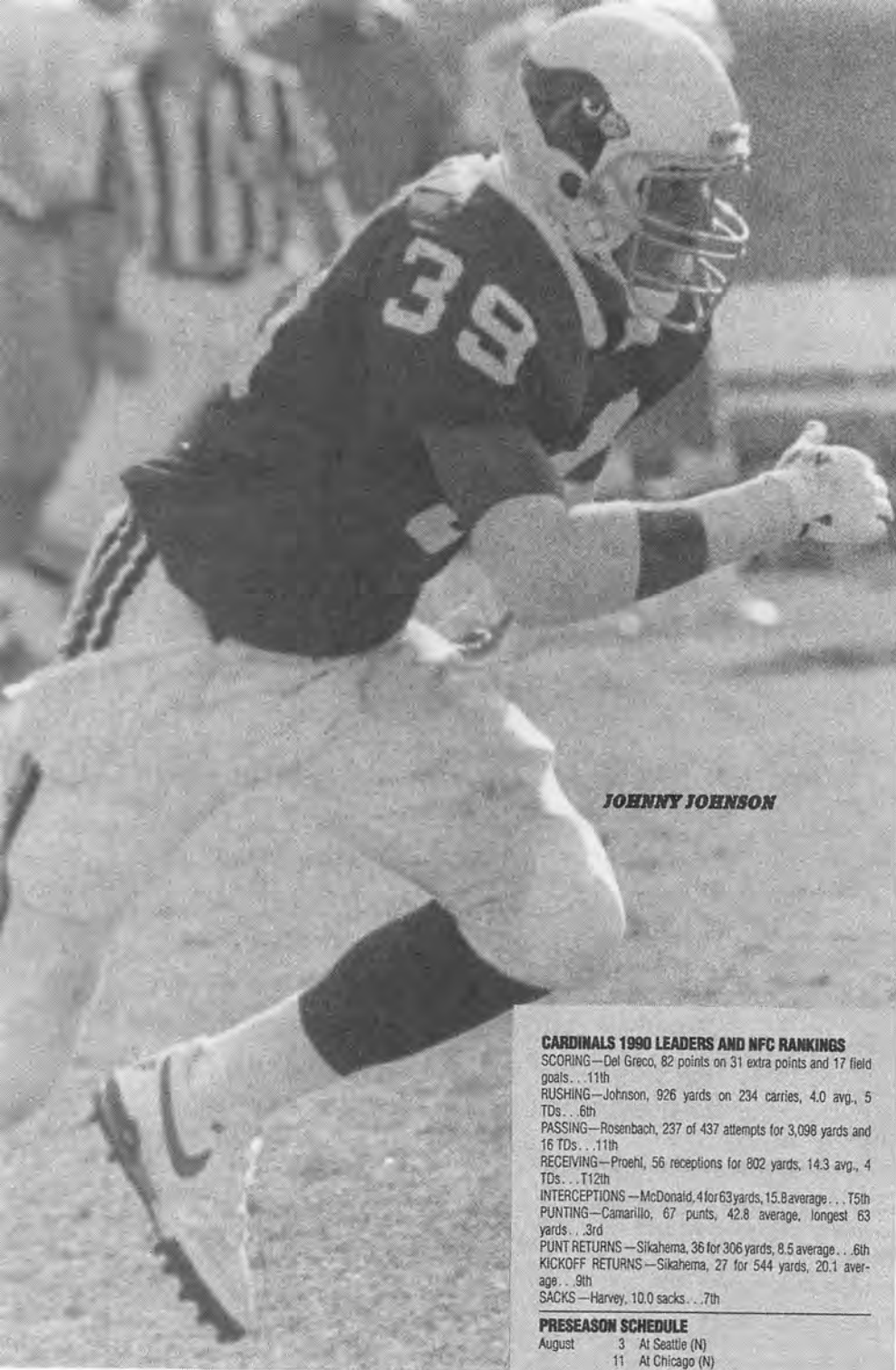
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JOHNNY JOHNSON

PHOENIX CARDINALS

Moving to Phoenix isn't going to do the Cardinals any good until they can get away from the NFC East. As long as the NFL thinks West is East and East is West, Bill Bidwill's team is destined to stay South in the standings. The Cardinals try. They came closer to beating the Giants last year than the Redskins did, losing twice by a total of four points.

Not only is their division brutal, look at their schedule: at the Los Angeles Rams, at Philadelphia, and at Washington for starters. Five of their first seven games are on the road, away from the heat of the desert. Nevertheless, second-year coach Joe Bugel remains optimistic as usual, a trait that serves him well

at his address. "We think we are way ahead of where we were a year ago," Bugel said.

After two 5-11 seasons in a row, it's all a matter of perspective. Bugel found a quarterback, Timm Rosenbach, and two running backs, Johnny Johnson and Anthony Thompson, last year. This time, he hopes he has found an entire defensive line in a 315-pound project with no college experience, Eric Swann. The gamble of the draft, Swann insists the real gamble was by the teams that didn't take him. With the sixth pick, the Cardinals didn't give many teams a chance to pass on him. Now, all he has to do is make the jump from the Baystate Titans minor-league team to the big leagues and help the Cardinals improve from 26th place in stopping the run.

"We're playing in the 300-pound division," Bugel said. "Washington, Philly, the Giants can all run the ball and dominate the line of scrimmage. Everyone seems to have 300-pounders pushing people around, so we have to get some players on defense who can stop us from getting pushed around."

On offense, the Cardinals always have pushed their own weight. Last year was not one of their better ones for scoring or yards, but they think they have found their quarter-



TIM McDONALD

CARDINALS 1990 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Del Greco, 82 points on 31 extra points and 17 field goals... 11th
RUSHING—Johnson, 926 yards on 234 carries, 4.0 avg., 5 TDs... 6th
PASSING—Rosenbach, 237 of 437 attempts for 3,098 yards and 16 TDs... 11th
RECEIVING—Proehl, 56 receptions for 802 yards, 14.3 avg., 4 TDs... 112th
INTERCEPTIONS—McDonald, 4 for 63 yards, 15.8 average... 75th
PUNTING—Camarillo, 67 punts, 42.8 average, longest 63 yards... 3rd
PUNT RETURNS—Sikahema, 36 for 306 yards, 8.5 average... 6th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Sikahema, 27 for 544 yards, 20.1 average... 8th
SACKS—Harvey, 10.0 sacks... 7th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	3	At Seattle (N)
	11	At Chicago (N)
	17	NEW ENGLAND (N)
	23	DENVER (N)

1991 SCHEDULE

		1990 SCORES
September	1	At Los Angeles Rams.....
	8	At Philadelphia.....23-21
	15	At Washington.....0-31
	22	DALLAS (N).....20-3
	29	NEW ENGLAND.....34-14
October	6	At New York Giants.....19-20
	13	At Minnesota.....
	20	ATLANTA.....24-13
	27	MINNESOTA.....
November	3	At Dallas.....10-41
	10	NEW YORK GIANTS.....21-24
	17	At San Francisco.....
	24	PHILADELPHIA.....21-23
December	1	OPEN DATE.....
	8	WASHINGTON.....10-38
	15	At Denver.....
	22	NEW ORLEANS.....7-28

back in Rosenbach. The feisty leader threw for 682 yards and six touchdowns in the final two games against the Giants and Eagles. This will be only his second year as a starter. He was the second-leading rushing quarterback in the league to Randall Cunningham. Tom Tupa is Rosenbach's backup and also serves as punter Rich Camarillo's backup, but doesn't get much experience either place.

The play of Johnson and Thompson as rookies led Bugel to consider going away from the one-back attack he brought from Washington to a more conventional two-back offense so he can utilize both. Johnson, an obscure seventh-rounder, gained 926 yards rushing and led all rookies with 1,167 total yards. Bothered by an ankle injury, Johnson allowed second-round pick Thompson a chance and he came through with 306 yards in three games. If Bugel can't find a way to put both on the field at the same time, Thompson could well win the starting job. Terrence Flagler is the third-down back. Watch for rook-

ie Ivory Lee Brown. The 233-pounder from Arkansas-Pine Bluff arrived in the seventh round, same birthplace as Johnson.

Wide receiver Ricky Proehl was another draft choice who came through big time for the Cardinals last season. He caught more passes (56) for more yards (802) than any other rookie in the league. He allowed the Cards to wave good-bye finally to J.T. Smith. Ernie Jones took Smith's place in the lineup and can make the tough catch, but the deep threat remains Roy Green. At age 34, Green can still get behind a defense. Plan B addition Derek Hill arrived from Pittsburgh and hopes the familiar scenery from college days at Arizona will rejuvenate him. At tight end, Walter Reeves can block. Tim Jorden is the H-back.

The offensive line of tackles Luis Sharpe and Tootie Robbins, guards Derek Kennard and Lance Smith, and center Bill Lewis started every game last season and is back intact. Sharpe and Robbins enter their 10th years coming off their best, a comfort for former line coach Bugel. If former first-round choice Joe Wolf can find a spot at either guard or tackle, it will be a plus, but both Kennard and Smith had good years. Other backups are Vernice Smith and Kani Kauahi.

Swann isn't going to be allowed the luxury of time, the ingredient missing most from his qualifications. As soon as the Cardinals started giving him a cram course in mini-camp, he injured a knee that required arthroscopic surgery, setting back his development. By opening game, Swann is expected to shed all the ugly duckling habits he picked up raking leaves and playing in the minors and start at defensive right end, the pass-rushing side. In the 3-4 defense that coordinator Fritz Shurmur inherited, Swann will be asked to stop the run before he rushes the passer. The Cardinals have former end Freddie Joe Nunn and leading sacker Ken Harvey at linebacker to pressure quarterbacks.

Opposite Swann, the Cardinals hope Plan B acquisition Jeff Faulkner can hold down left end with nose tackle Jim Wahler in the middle.

But second-round draft choice Mike Jones of North Carolina State could figure somewhere along the line and fifth-rounder Vance Hammond of Clemson could push Wahler. Rod Saddler is the incumbent right end and tutor for Swann. Dexter Manley is still around as a designated pass rusher. The line got only 16 sacks and needs all the help it can get.

Nunn's switch from end to linebacker will displace Anthony Bell, who hasn't had the impact expected from a high draft choice. Bell could move inside and compete against Eric Hill and Garth Jax. Plan B pickups Tyrone Stowe and Sidney Coleman also figure. Harvey's 10½ sacks persuaded the Cardinals to go back to the 3-4 alignment to free him up as

a force. He is underrated and will deserve Pro Bowl consideration.

In the secondary, draft choices Aeneas Williams and Dexter Davis have a chance to start, probably in place of Cedric Mack at left cornerback opposite Jay Taylor. Marcus Turner could challenge Lonnie Young at free safety. Strong safety Tim McDonald led the club in interceptions and tackles.

Camarillo and Tupa give the Cardinals good punting and Plan B acquisition Greg Davis of Atlanta should solidify the place-kicking. The Cardinals will have to find someone else to replace the popular and effective kick-and-punt-return man Vai Sikahema, a Plan B cast-off to Green Bay.



KEN HARVEY



TIMM ROSENBACH

CARDINALS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
55	Bell, Anthony	OLB	6-3	235	Michigan State
54	Braxton, David	OLB	6-1	232	Wake Forest
16	Camarillo, Rich	P	5-11	193	Washington
37	Centers, Larry	RB	5-10	203	S.F. Austin
79	Clasby, Bob	NT	6-5	276	Notre Dame
93	Coleman, Sidney	ILB	6-2	250	Southern Miss.
5	Davis, Greg	K	5-11	197	26 Citadel
17	Del Greco, Al	K	5-10	195	29 Auburn
94	Faulkner, Jeff	DE	6-3	305	27 Southern
26	Field, Amod	WR	5-11	181	24 Montclair St.
32	Flagler, Terrence	RB	6-0	200	27 Clemson
20	Flutie, Darren	WR	5-10	187	25 Boston College
81	Green, Roy	WR	6-0	197	34 Henderson St.
56	Harvey, Ken	OLB	6-2	228	26 California
18	Hill, Derek	WR	6-1	193	24 Arizona
58	Hill, Eric	ILB	6-1	251	25 LSU
83	Holmes, Don	WR	5-10	182	30 Mesa
80	Jackson, John	WR	5-10	175	24 Southern Cal
53	Jax, Garth	ILB	6-2	236	28 Florida State
39	Johnson, Johnny	RB	6-2	216	23 San Jose St.
86	Jones, Ernie	WR	5-11	196	27 Indiana
95	Jorden, Tim	TE	6-2	220	25 Indiana
57	Kauahi, Kani	C	6-2	274	32 Hawaii
70	Kennard, Derek	G	6-3	319	29 Nevada-Reno
7	Kuppa, Craig	QB	6-4	215	24 Pacific Lutheran
51	Lewis, Bill	C	6-7	278	28 Nebraska
30	Little, David	TE	6-2	226	30 M. Tenn. St.
22	Lomack, Tony	WR	5-8	180	23 Florida
29	Lynch, Lorenzo	CB	5-9	200	28 Cal-Sacramento
47	Mack, Cedric	CB	6-0	185	31 Baylor
92	Manley, Dexter	DE	6-3	257	32 Oklahoma St.
46	McDonald, Tim	SS	6-2	209	26 Southern Cal
78	Nunn, Freddie Joe	OLB	6-4	250	29 Mississippi
90	Osborne, Eldonta	OLB	6-0	226	24 Louisiana Tech
76	Patterson, Craig	NT	6-5	310	27 Brigham Young
89	Proehl, Ricky	WR	5-10	185	23 Wake Forest
87	Reeves, Walter	TE	6-3	262	26 Auburn
63	Robbins, Tootie	T	6-5	322	33 East Carolina
3	Rosenbach, Timm	QB	6-2	215	25 Washington St.
72	Saddler, Rod	DE	6-5	280	24 Texas A&M
67	Sharpe, Luis	T	6-4	290	31 UCLA
61	Smith, Lance	G	6-2	285	28 LSU
69	Smith, Vernice	OL	6-2	289	26 Florida A&M
91	Stowe, Tyrone	ILB	6-1	236	28 Rutgers
27	Taylor, Jay	CB	5-9	175	24 San Jose St.
34	Thompson, Anthony	RB	5-11	207	24 Indiana
19	Tupa, Tom	QB/P	6-4	225	25 Ohio State
23	Turner, Marcus	DB	6-0	187	25 UCLA
66	Wahler, Jim	NT	6-3	276	25 UCLA
60	Walker, Jeff	OL	6-4	286	28 Memphis State
82	Williams, Willie	T	6-5	296	24 LSU
68	Wolf, Joe	T	6-5	283	25 Boston College
24	Woffley, Ron	RB	6-0	222	29 West Virginia
43	Young, Lonnie	FS	6-1	192	28 Michigan State
38	Zordich, Michael	FS	5-11	200	28 Penn State

DRAFTTEES

rd.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	Swann, Eric	DT	6-4	315	None
2	Jones, Mike	DE	6-3	274	N.C. State
3	Williams, Aeneas	DB	5-10	187	Southern U.
4	Davis, Dexter	DB	5-9	175	Clemson
5	Hammond, Vance	T	6-6	300	Clemson
6	Vega, Eduardo	T	6-6	320	Memphis State
7	Brown, Ivory Lee	RB	6-1	233	Ark-Pine Bluff
8	Amstler, Greg	RB	6-2	238	Tennessee
8	Evans, Jerry	TE	6-4	255	Toledo
8	Evans, Scott	DT	6-3	260	Oklahoma
10	Anderson, Herbie	DB	5-10	183	Texas A&I
11	LaDuke, Nathan	DB	5-10	196	Arizona State
12	Bridwell, Jeff	QB	6-4	215	UC-Davis



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- Eagles: 92 White
- Giants: 11 Simms
- Giants: 30 Mayfield
- Giants: 56 Taylor
- Giants: 89 Bazzucchi
- Bills: 12 Kelly
- Bills: 34 Thomas
- Bills: 50 Bennett
- Lions: 11 Ware
- Lions: 20 Sanders
- Patriots: 56 Toppert
- Colts: 11 George

- Colts: 29 Dickerson
- Bears: 34 Payton
- Bears: 35 Anderson
- Bears: 50 Singletary
- Bears: 95 Dent
- 49ers: 16 Montana
- 49ers: 44 Rattman
- 49ers: 80 Rice
- Rams: 11 Everett
- Vikings: 34 Walker
- Vikings: 75 Millard
- Vikings: 81 Carter
- Saints: 21 Hilliard
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- Jets: 88 Toon
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- Chargers: 83 Miller
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- Steelers: 58 Lambert
- Steelers: 82 Stallworth

- Steelers: 83 Lapps
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- Browns: 19 Kucor
- Browns: 34 Mack
- Browns: 82 Nease
- Bengals: 7 Eason
- Bengals: 30 Woods
- Chiefs: 35 Olney
- Chiefs: 56 Thomas
- Diers: 1 Moon
- Raiders: 25 Bledsoe
- Raiders: 32 Allen
- Raiders: 34 Jackson
- Raiders: 75 Long
- Seahawks: 80 Largent
- Broncos: 7 Ealey
- Broncos: 26 Humphrey
- Dolphins: 13 Marino
- Dolphins: 13 Smith
- Buccs: 14 Testaverde

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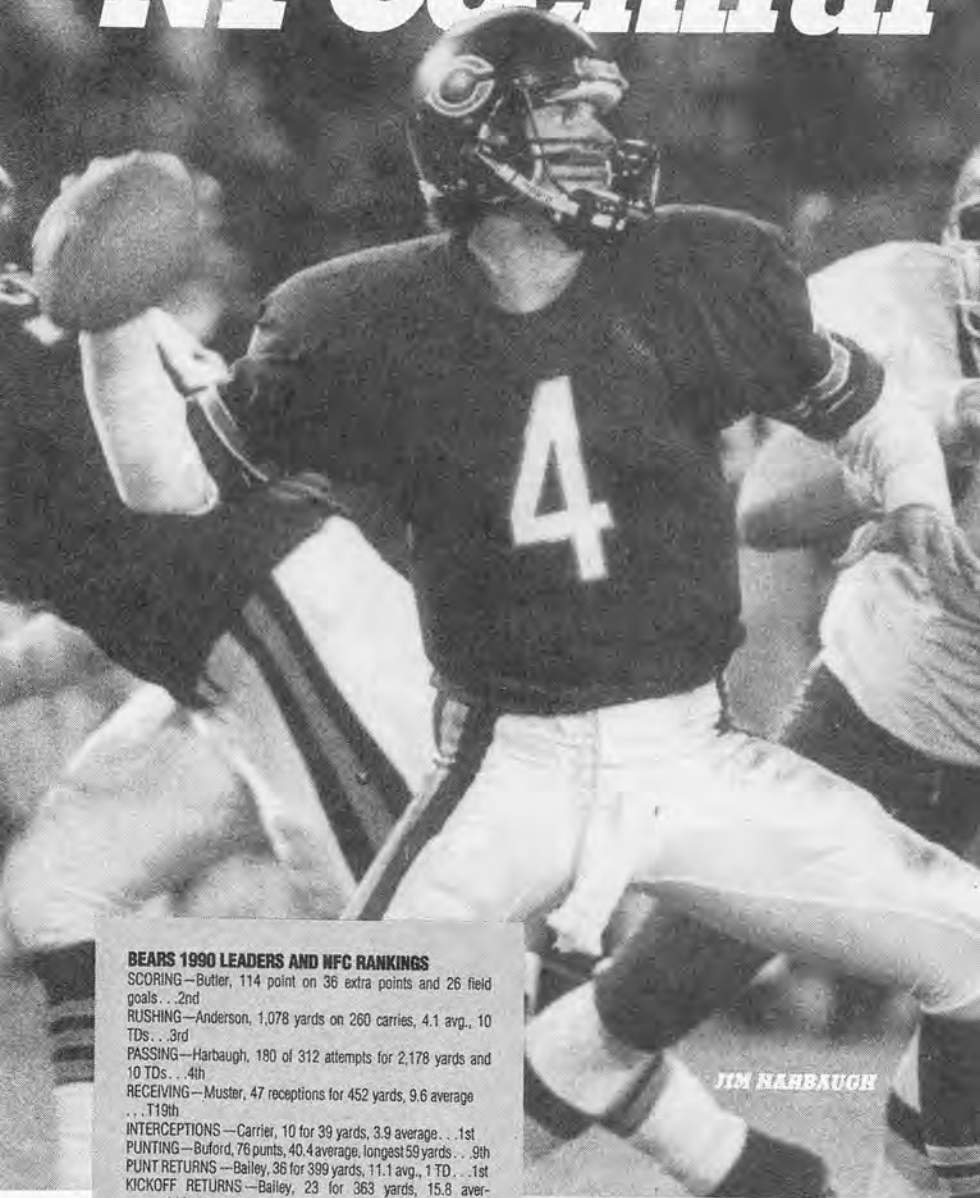
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NFC Central



BEARS 1990 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Butler, 114 point on 36 extra points and 26 field goals... 2nd
RUSHING—Anderson, 1,078 yards on 260 carries, 4.1 avg., 10 TDs... 3rd
PASSING—Harbaugh, 180 of 312 attempts for 2,178 yards and 10 TDs... 4th
RECEIVING—Muster, 47 receptions for 452 yards, 9.6 average... 119th
INTERCEPTIONS—Carrier, 10 for 39 yards, 3.9 average... 1st
PUNTING—Buford, 76 punts, 40.4 average, longest 59 yards... 9th
PUNT RETURNS—Bailey, 36 for 399 yards, 11.1 avg., 1 TD... 1st
KICKOFF RETURNS—Bailey, 23 for 363 yards, 15.8 average... 14th
SACKS—Dent, 12.0 sacks... 4th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July	27	At Miami (N)
August	3	San Francisco at Berlin, Germany (N)
	11	PHOENIX (N)
	17	At L.A. Raiders
	24	BUFFALO (N)

1991 SCHEDULE	1990 SCORES
September	
1	MINNESOTA..... 19-16
8	At Tampa Bay..... 26-6
15	NEW YORK GIANTS.....
23	NEW YORK JETS (N).....
29	At Buffalo.....
October	
6	WASHINGTON..... 9-10
13	OPEN DATE.....
17	At Green Bay (N)..... 31-13
27	At New Orleans.....
November	
3	DETROIT..... 23-17
11	At Minnesota (N)..... 13-41
17	At Indianapolis.....
24	MIAMI.....
December	
8	At Detroit.....
14	GREEN BAY..... 27-13
14	TAMPA BAY..... 27-14
23	At San Francisco (N).....

JIM HARBAUGH

CHICAGO BEARS

Coach Mike Ditka took a look at the Bears' 1991 schedule and asked one question: "Do we have to play any on Wednesday mornings?" The Bears have three Monday night games, one Thursday night game, one Thanksgiving morning game, and a Saturday game. Four of their five Monday and Thursday dates are out of town.

Left off the Monday night circuit last season following their 6-10 swoon, the Bears were rewarded for their 11-5 rebound with a disruptive schedule full of national television appearances. It will ensure that the Bears will not be able to enjoy the predictable weekly practice routine that contributed to last year's success. None of the other teams asked to play three times on Mondays was asked to play on Thursdays too. What confused Ditka more was the decision to send the Bears to Tampa in September and bring the Bucs north in December. "Makes no sense," he said.

What the schedule will provide, however, is incentive. Ditka is a master of us-against-them motivation. Playing in a division with four 6-10 teams, none of which appears capable of challenging the Bears, Ditka needs all the competition he can get. You can bet he will bring up the schedule early and often.

The Bears were vulnerable last year after their string of five division titles was interrupted in '89. When nobody filled the void, the Bears quickly healed themselves. Their defense bounced back from 25th to sixth and Jim Harbaugh was more than adequate in his first year as starting quarterback until he injured a shoulder and missed the playoffs.

Despite an embarrassing 30-3 playoff loss to the Giants, the Bears rediscovered confidence and enter this season clearly as the team to beat in the NFC Central. They have the best running back in Neal Anderson and the best defense in a division where little else is required. Still, there are some questions. For one, Dan Hampton will be in the TV booth instead of in the middle of the defensive line, where his presence since 1979 made a huge difference even when aching knees limited his ability. The Bears never won much without him in the lineup.



NEAL ANDERSON

Harbaugh is healthy again and the Bears like the potential of second-year man Peter Tom Willis. "Jim has to keep improving at the rate he has for the last couple of years. I think if he does that, he'll be among the top five quarterbacks in the league—I don't mean the NFC but both conferences," Ditka said.

Ditka also promised to throw more. The Bears finished 28th in pass offense last year, mainly because they were second in rushing and didn't feel the need to throw. Ditka always promises to throw more. Catching or running, Anderson is the key. He accounted for 31 percent of the Bears' net yards last year, rushing for 1,078 and catching 42 passes for 484

SCORE BIG

Chicago BEAR REPORT

VOL. 18 REPORT NO. 10

ENTERPRISES, INC. CHICAGO, IL



CHICAGO BEARS



FOOTBALL

INSIDE
THIS ISSUE

24 COLORFUL
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BEARS
INFORMATION

THE BEARS
PREPARE
FOR A
RUN AT
SUPER BOWL
XXVI



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**1991 ... CAN THIS BE THE YEAR TO RETURN TO THE
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The Bears have brought us the NFC Central Division Championship six of the last seven years along with one Super Bowl appearance and one World Championship. We are beginning to get the feeling that Ditka and his players are tired of flirting with the big game and this may be the season when the "Monsters of the Midway" forget the attitude of returning to respectability and set the goal of ANOTHER WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP.

This team is not in the rebuilding mode. ... the only team that can boast a better record during the '80s is the 49ers ... and that my fellow Bears Fans is winning football ... and I don't believe it's over.

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yards. He was the team's second-leading receiver to fullback Brad Muster, who caught 47 passes for 452 yards. Muster also gained 664 yards rushing on 141 carries. His average (4.7) was better than Anderson's. So the Bears are dominated by their running backs more than any other team in the league. It is their strength and their downfall. A team like the Giants was able to concentrate on shutting down the running game.

Depth is thin behind the two starters, with Johnny Bailey, Mark Green, and James Rouse all young and inexperienced. The Bears drafted Darren Lewis out of Texas A & M only to discover he had tested positive for cocaine at the scouting combine and they had made a mistake in recording the test. If Lewis rehabs, however, he will make the team.

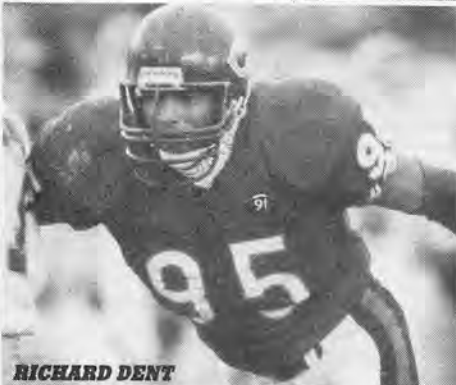
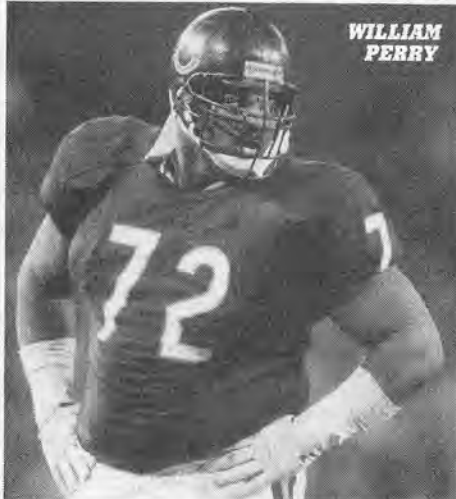
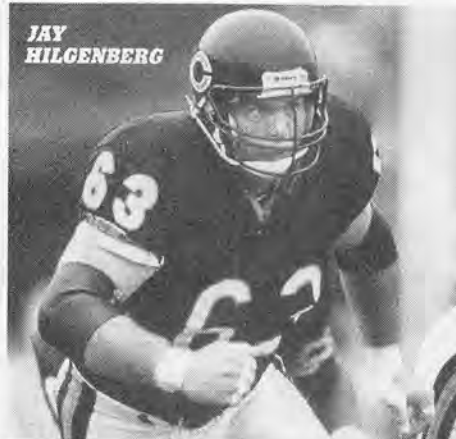
The receiving corps lacks speed and was led by Wendell Davis, who caught only 39 passes. He and Ron Morris are the starters. "I have no doubt that Morris and Davis can develop into excellent receivers; we just need to give them the chance," Ditka said. Veteran third-down specialist Dennis Gentry, an explosive runner, was hampered by a toe injury and is 32 years old. They drafted a speed receiver in Anthony Morgan, who wasn't used much his whole college career at Tennessee, so he will fit right into the Bears' system. Glen Kozlowski, Quintin Smith, and Tom Waddle are reserves. Tight ends James Thornton, Cap Boso, and James Coley all are more blockers than receivers.

The offensive line has been a strength throughout the 1980s. The same fivesome of tackles Jim Covert and Keith Van Horne, guards Mark Bortz and Tom Thayer, and center Jay Hilgenberg has started since the 1985 Super Bowl season. But all except Thayer underwent offseason surgery to repair the wear and tear. Backups John Wojciechowski and Kurt Becker also had surgery, leaving third-year center-guard Jerry Fontenot the only whole player except for Thayer. The Bears spent their No. 1 draft choice on Texas tackle Stan Thomas, a 300-pounder capable of starting as soon as the need arises.

The defensive front of ends Richard Dent and Trace Armstrong and tackles Steve McMichael and William Perry is solid and talented. But without Hampton, the depth drops

fast. The Bears liked Eric Kumerow in the 1988 draft so much they traded with Miami for him this season despite his checkered career. They hope he can help at end and tackle. Second-round draftee Chris Zorich of Notre Dame is a Chicago kid with the kind of enthusiasm that nearly caused Ditka to draft him in the first round. Second-year man Tim Ryan is the only other experienced reserve, so rookies Tom Backes and John Cook will get a chance.

Middle linebacker Mike Singletary returns for his 11th season after finishing one of his best. He no longer plays in passing situations, which makes him tougher against the run. Outside starters Ron Rivera and Jim Morrissey might be pushed by John Roper and Ron Cox, who both play in passing situations. Dante Jones is Singletary's backup and Mickey Pruitt will vie with ninth-rounder Mike Stonebreaker of Notre Dame for a reserve spot.



The Bears traded starting corner Vestee Jackson for Kumerow and are counting on the return of Lemuel Stinson from serious knee surgery to play opposite Donnell Woolford. But they need fourth-rounder Joe Johnson to solidify a precariously thin situation with James Lott and John Mangum the only experienced reserves. Free safety Mark Carrier is coming off a spectacular rookie season of 10 interceptions. He joins strong safety Shaun Gayle as one of the best tandems in the league. David Tate, Markus Paul, and Maurice Douglass provide depth.

Place-kicker Kevin Butler is joined by third-rounder Chris Gardocki, who will challenge punter Maury Buford and also kick off. Butler and Gardocki went to the same Georgia high school. Bailey returned punts but was fumble-prone. Gentry is one of the league's best on kickoff returns.

BEARS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
35	Anderson, Neal	RB	5-11	210	27	Florida
93	Armstrong, Trace	DE	6-4	259	26	Florida
22	Bailey, Johnny	RB	5-8	180	24	Texas A&I
79	Becker, Kurt	G	6-5	269	33	Michigan
62	Bortz, Mark	G	6-6	272	29	Iowa
86	Boso, Cap	TE	6-4	240	28	Illinois
8	Buford, Maury	P	6-0	198	31	Texas Tech
6	Bulter, Kevin	K	6-1	190	29	Georgia
20	Carrier, Mark	S	6-1	180	23	Southern Cal
89	Coley, James	TE	6-3	270	24	Clemson
74	Covert, Jim	T	6-4	278	31	Pittsburgh
54	Cox, Ron	LB	6-2	242	23	Fresno State
82	Davis, Wendell	WR	5-11	188	25	LSU
95	Dent, Richard	DE	6-5	268	31	Tennessee St.
37	Douglass, Maurice	DB	5-11	200	27	Kentucky
67	Fontenot, Jerry	G	6-3	272	25	Texas A&M
23	Gayle, Shaun	S	5-11	194	29	Ohio State
29	Gentry, Dennis	WR	5-8	180	32	Baylor
31	Green, Mark	HB	5-11	195	24	Notre Dame
4	Harbaugh, Jim	QB	6-3	220	27	Michigan
63	Hilgenberg, Jay	C	6-3	260	31	Iowa
53	Jones, Dante	LB	6-1	236	26	Oklahoma
88	Kozlowski, Glen	WR	6-1	190	29	BYU
70	Kumerow, Eric	DT	6-7	260	26	Ohio State
46	Lott, James	CB	5-9	181	24	Clemson
26	Mangum, John	CB	5-10	173	24	Alabama
75	Matusz, Roman	T	6-4	270	24	Pittsburgh
76	McMichael, Steve	DT	6-2	268	34	Texas
84	Morris, Ron	WR	6-1	195	27	SMU
51	Morrissey, Jim	LB	6-3	227	29	Michigan State
25	Muster, Brad	FB	6-3	231	26	Stanford
36	Paul, Markus	S	6-2	199	25	Syracuse
72	Perry, William	DT	6-2	315	29	Clemson
52	Pruitt, Mickey	LB	6-1	220	26	Colorado
59	Rivera, Ron	LB	6-3	240	29	California
55	Roper, John	LB	6-1	228	26	Texas A&M
30	Rouse, James	RB	6-0	220	25	Arkansas
96	Ryan, Tim	DT	6-4	268	24	Southern Cal
50	Singletary, Mike	LB	6-0	230	33	Baylor
85	Smith, Quintin	WR	5-10	172	23	Kansas
12	Snyder, Brent	QB	6-3	230	25	Utah State
32	Stinson, Lemuel	CB	5-9	159	25	Texas Tech
49	Tate, David	S	6-0	177	27	Colorado
57	Thayer, Tom	G	6-4	270	30	Notre Dame
80	Thornton, James	TE	6-2	242	26	Cal-Fullerton
78	Van Horne, Keith	T	6-6	283	34	Southern Cal
87	Waddle, Tom	WR	6-0	181	24	Boston College
10	Willis, Peter	QB	6-2	188	24	Florida St.
73	Wojciechowski, John	G	6-4	270	28	Michigan State
21	Woolford, Donnell	DB	5-9	187	25	Clemson

DRAFTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Thomas, Stan	DT	6-5	298	Texas
2	Zorich, Chris	DT	6-0	257	Notre Dame
3	Gardocki, Chris	P/K	6-2	193	Clemson
4	Johnson, Joe	DB	5-8	186	N.C. State
5	Morgan, Anthony	WR	6-0	195	Tennessee
6	Lewis, Darren	RB	5-10	218	Texas A&M
7	Justin, Paul	QB	6-4	205	Arizona State
8	Horton, Larry	DB	5-11	179	Texas A&M
9	Stonebreaker, Mike	LB	6-0	230	Notre Dame
10	Backes, Tom	DE	6-4	273	Oklahoma
11	Long, Stacey	G	6-2	295	Clemson
12	Cook, John	DT	6-4	270	Washington

MIKE SINGLETARY



RICHARD DENT

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Facing the easiest schedule in the league this fall, the Vikings have yet another reason to win. Every year, they seem to require some kind of special motivation.

For a couple of seasons, they sent more players to the Pro Bowl than any other team, so many experts decided they should be favored to win. When that didn't work, former general manager Mike Lynn decided to take the entire organization to the Pecos River Learning Center in New Mexico to discover the joy of developing relationships and dedicating themselves to better teamwork.

After surviving various high-wire antics and balancing acts in the wilderness, they returned to the football field and got hurt. Defensive tackle Keith Millard wrecked a knee and was out for the season. Quarterback Wade Wilson injured the thumb on his throwing hand and allowed Rich Gannon to get his feet and arm in the door. "We had guys getting hurt all over the place," said Jerry Burns, at 64 the oldest coach in the NFL and getting older faster than he deserves.

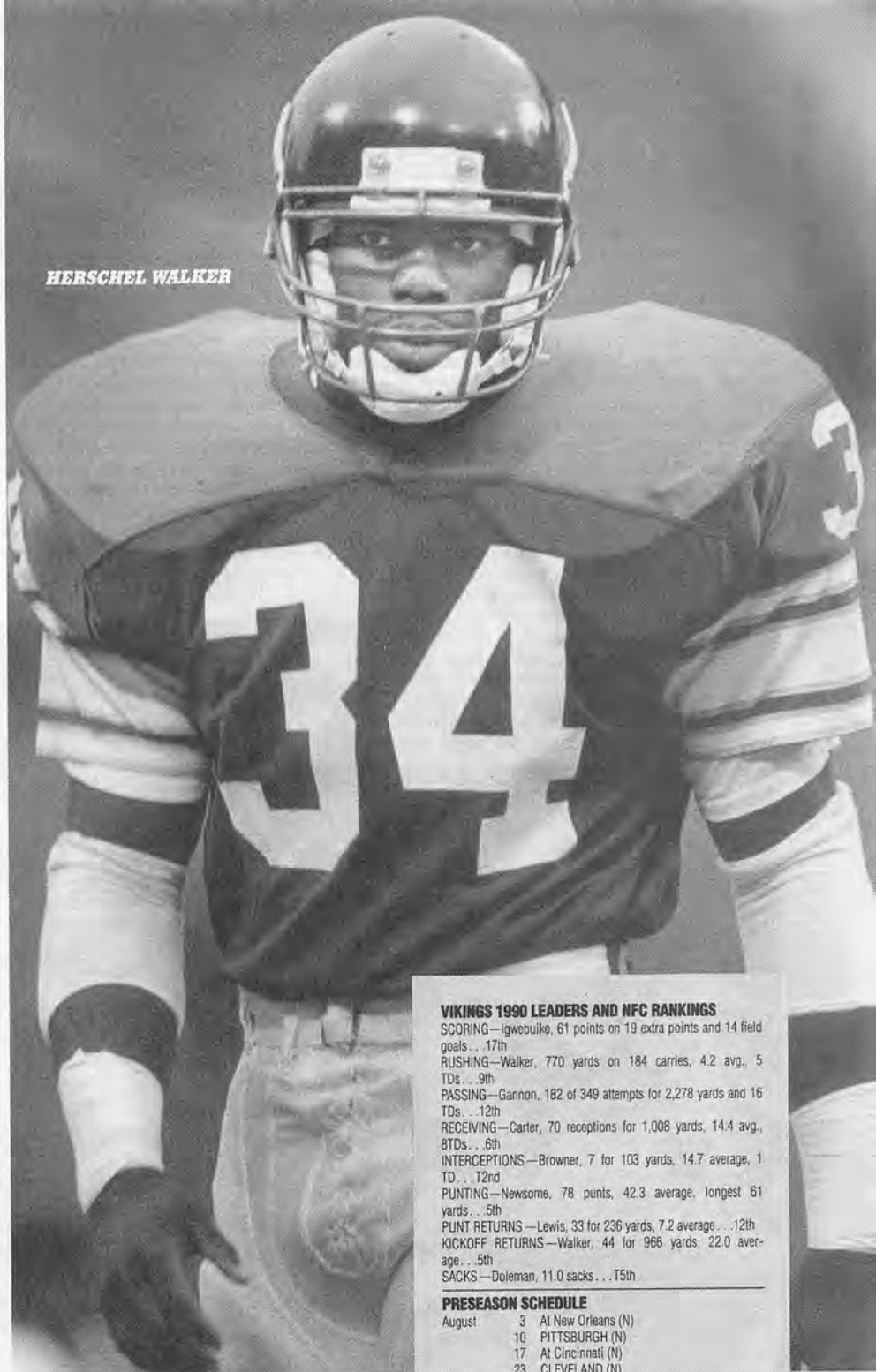
After splitting their first two games, the Vikings lost five, won five, then lost four to finish with the fourth-worst record in team history. Lynn left to assume the presidency of the World League of American Football. Burns fired offensive coordinator Bob Schnelker and defensive coordinator Floyd Peters. The club signed nine Plan B players, but thanks to the trade that never ends for Herschel Walker, they were the only team to sit out the first two rounds of the draft.

The future is now, the Vikings think. Fortunately, the easy fifth-place schedule in the weakest NFC division gives them more hope than they might deserve. If you don't believe the Vikings have problems, listen to Gannon: "I think the success we've had has gone to our heads. I don't think talent is the problem here; I just think it's attitudes and personalities. We lose four games in a row and we still think things are O.K. around here."

The accolades are getting quieter. The Vikings were down to five Pro Bowl players last year: guard Randall McDaniel, defensive end Chris Doleman, cornerback Carl Lee, safety Joey Browner, and tight end Steve Jordan. Walker suffered stinging criticism, not that he didn't deserve his fair share. There were times when he looked as though he wanted no part of football anymore.

To demonstrate their continuing faith in Walker, the Vikings are seriously contemplating switching to a one-back offense. Not only would they feature Walker even more, they could get three wide receivers onto the field at once. Cris Carter proved a worthy addition to the starting duo of Anthony Carter and Hassan Jones, so Burns is trying to figure out how to get him into more action.

Unless they snap the ball directly to Walker in a single wing, the Vikings still plan to have a quarterback on the field. Whether it is Wilson or Gannon remains to be seen, as usual in Minnesota. Sean Salisbury also is in that picture, which always seems fuzzy. Wilson thought he had earned peace when Tommy Kramer left, but thumb and shoulder injuries gave Gannon his chance and he showed enough promise to deserve a long look. Offensive coordinator Tom Moore and quarterbacks coach Marc Trestman will have to make



a decision after a training camp and preseason that appears wide open. Gannon's mobility once persuaded the New England Patriots to try to convert him to a running back or receiver. Wilson's experience can't be ignored. If the coaches can't make a decision, there is a possibility that the 6-5 Salisbury, a five-year pro out of Southern Cal who played two years for Winnipeg in the Canadian Football League, will get a shot. After all, the Vikings have had good luck before with a Canadian quarterback in Joe Kapp and especially good fortune out of Winnipeg, where Bud Grant coached for 10 years.

Despite the criticism of Walker and the con-

VIKINGS 1990 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Igwebulike, 61 points on 19 extra points and 14 field goals... 17th
RUSHING—Walker, 770 yards on 184 carries, 4.2 avg., 5 TDs... 9th
PASSING—Gannon, 182 of 349 attempts for 2,278 yards and 16 TDs... 12th
RECEIVING—Carter, 70 receptions for 1,008 yards, 14.4 avg., 8 TDs... 6th
INTERCEPTIONS—Browner, 7 for 103 yards, 14.7 average, 1 TD... T2nd
PUNTING—Newsome, 78 punts, 42.3 average, longest 61 yards... 5th
PUNT RETURNS—Lewis, 33 for 236 yards, 7.2 average... 12th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Walker, 44 for 966 yards, 22.0 average... 5th
SACKS—Doleman, 11.0 sacks... T5th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	3	At New Orleans (N)
	10	PITTSBURGH (N)
	17	At Cincinnati (N)
	23	CLEVELAND (N)

1991 SCHEDULE

September	1	At Chicago	16-19
	8	At Atlanta	—
	15	SAN FRANCISCO	17-20
	22	At New Orleans	32-3
	29	DENVER (N)	27-22
October	6	At Detroit	17-7
	13	PHOENIX	—
	20	At New England	—
	27	At Phoenix	—
November	3	TAMPA BAY	20-23
	11	CHICAGO (N)	41-13
	17	At Green Bay	10-24
	24	DETROIT	27-34
December	1	OPEN DATE	—
	8	At Tampa Bay (N)	13-26
	15	LOS ANGELES RAMS	—
	22	GREEN BAY	23-7

tract dispute that put his Minnesota future in question, the Vikings got 2,051 all-purpose yards out of the man last season: 770 rushing, 315 receiving, and 966 returning kickoffs. He also led the team in scoring with nine touchdowns. Clearly, the Vikings aren't ready yet to contemplate life after Herschel.

Whether they play a one-back or two-back set, Burns would like D.J. Dozier to forget about baseball because he thinks he can help. After losing Allen Rice to Plan B, the Vikings added Jamie Morris and drafted Mississippi junior Randy Baldwin. They hope Rick Fenney and Terry Allen come back from knee injuries. Alfred Anderson starts at fullback in the two-back attack.

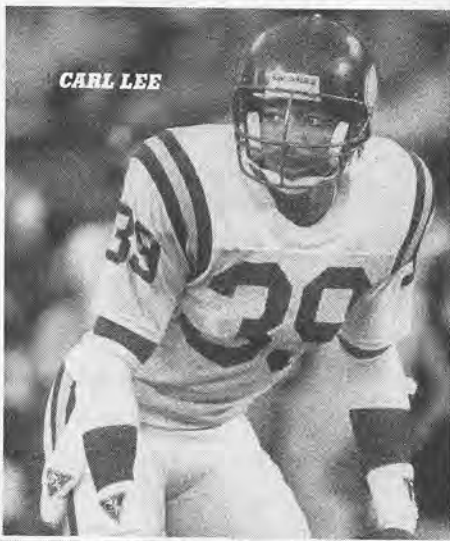
The Carters and Jones are joined in the receiving department by tight end Jordan, still the best in the business at both blocking and catching. A.C. led the club with 70 catches for 1,008 yards and Jones had 51 catches, many of them tough ones. Cris Carter beat his Philadelphia rap for a lack of speed by averaging 15.3 yards on 27 catches, including a team-long touchdown of 78 yards. With Brent Novoselsky and Mike Jones backing up Jordan and third-rounder Jake Reed of Grambling joining the wide receivers, the Vikings have plenty of targets to complement Walker and lure them into using more spread formations.

The offensive line of tackles Gary Zimmerman and Tim Irwin, guards McDaniel and

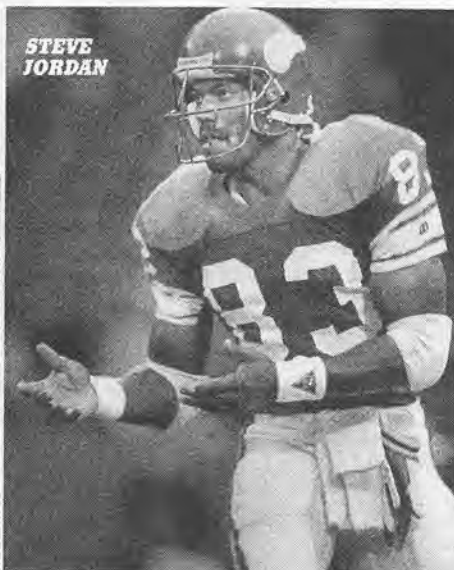
Todd Kalis, and center Kirk Lowdermilk is solid. Draftee Chris Thome joins Brian Habib, Chris Foote, Adam Schreiber, and Craig Wolfley as backups.

Millard surprised Burns by his intensity in rehabilitating his knee because he tends to play better than he practices. If he returns healthy, the line of Al Noga, Henry Thomas, and Doleman should remain one of the most effective in the league. Thomas is one player who deserves more Pro Bowl votes than he gets. Ken Clarke, John Randle, Thomas Strauthers, David Westbrooks, and Plan B addition Mike Hammerstein will battle rookies for backup.

At linebacker, the retirement of Scott Studwell leaves the defense without proven leadership, but Ray Berry is a competent replacement in the middle and two Plan B additions, Washington's Greg Manusky and Indianapolis's Mark Vanderbeek, have experience. Outside, former Lion Jimmy Williams will challenge Mark Dusbabek for a starting job opposite Mike Merriweather in new coordinator Monte Kiffin's scheme. Top draft choice Carlos Jenkins, a third-rounder, also figures.



CARL LEE



STEVE JORDAN



RICH CANNON

Lee and Reggie Rutland are good corners, backed by Audray McMillian. Football's best safety, Browner, will get help from Plan B additions Felix Wright of Cleveland and Solomon Wilcofs of Cincinnati, who will challenge starting free safety Darrell Fullington.

Donald Igwebuikwe returns from a court acquittal to battle Fuad Reveiz for the place-kicking job. Between them last season, they missed three field goals. Harry Newsome is the punter and little Leo Lewis keeps fighting off challenges as punt returner. Walker is the kickoff-return man.

VIKINGS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
21	Allen, Terry	RB	5-10	210	23	Clemson
46	Anderson, Alfred	RB	6-1	214	30	Baylor
50	Berry, Ray	LB	6-2	226	28	Baylor
47	Browner, Joey	S	6-2	228	31	Southern Cal
81	Carter, Anthony	WR	5-11	178	31	Michigan
80	Carter, Cris	WR	6-3	200	26	Ohio State
71	Clarke, Ken	DT	6-2	280	35	Syracuse
56	Doleman, Chris	DE	6-5	263	30	Pittsburgh
42	Dozier, D.J.	RB	6-0	205	26	Penn State
59	Dusbabek, Mark	LB	6-3	230	27	Minnesota
24	Eilers, Pat	S	5-11	195	25	Notre Dame
31	Fenney, Rick	RB	6-1	231	27	Washington
62	Foote, Chris	C	6-4	266	35	Southern Cal
29	Fullington, Darrell	S	6-1	195	27	Miami
16	Gannon, Rich	QB	6-3	202	26	Delaware
74	Habib, Brian	T	6-7	288	27	Washington
77	Hammerstein, Mike	T	6-4	272	28	Michigan
25	Hampton, Alonzo	CB	5-10	191	24	Pittsburgh
4	Igwebuikwe, Donald	K	5-9	184	31	Clemson
76	Irwin, Tim	T	6-8	295	33	Tennessee
84	Jones, Hassan	WR	6-0	195	27	Florida State
82	Jones, Mike	TE	6-3	255	25	Texas A&M
83	Jordan, Steve	TE	6-4	240	30	Brown
69	Kalis, Todd	G	6-5	286	26	Arizona State
52	Kirksey, William	LB	6-2	221	25	So. Mississippi
39	Lee, Carl	CB	6-0	184	30	Marshall
87	Lewis, Leo	WR	5-8	166	35	Missouri
63	Lowdermilk, Kirk	C	6-3	263	28	Ohio State
91	Manusky, Greg	LB	6-1	242	25	Colgate
64	McDaniel, Randall	G	6-3	270	27	Arizona State
26	McMillian, Audray	CB	6-0	189	29	Houston
57	Merriweather, Mike	LB	6-2	222	31	Pacific
75	Millard, Keith	DT	6-5	263	29	Washington St.
23	Mims, Carl	CB	5-10	180	26	Sam Houston St.
20	Morris, Jamie	RB	5-7	188	26	Michigan
18	Newsome, Harry	P	6-0	188	28	Wake Forest
99	Noga, Al	DE	6-1	248	26	Hawaii
85	Novoselsky, Brent	TE	6-2	238	25	Pennsylvania
17	Obee, Terry	WR	5-10	182	23	Oregon
86	Pruitt, James	WR	6-3	201	27	Cal State
93	Randle, John	DE	6-1	248	24	Texas A&I
7	Reveiz, Fuad	K	5-11	216	28	Tennessee
48	Rutland, Reggie	CB	6-1	192	27	Georgia Tech
12	Salisbury, Sean	QB	6-5	208	28	Southern Cal
60	Schreiber, Adam	OL	6-4	288	29	Texas
30	Smith, Cedric	RB	5-10	223	23	Florida
27	Stills, Ken	S	5-10	186	28	Wisconsin
94	Strauthers, Thomas	DE	6-4	262	30	Jackson State
97	Thomas, Henry	NT	6-2	268	26	LSU
54	Vanderbeek, Matt	LB	6-3	258	24	Michigan State
34	Walker, Herschel	RB	6-1	225	29	Georgia
89	Walker, Wayne	WR	5-8	162	25	Texas Tech
92	Westbrooks, David	DT	6-4	252	23	Howard
41	Wilcofs, Solomon	S	5-11	195	27	Colorado
58	Williams, Jimmy	LB	6-3	225	31	Nebraska
11	Wilson, Wade	QB	6-3	210	32	E. Texas St.
73	Woltley, Craig	G	6-1	277	33	Syracuse
22	Wright, Felix	S	6-2	195	32	Drake
65	Zimmerman, Gary	T	6-6	283	30	Oregon

DRAFTIES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
3	Jenkins, Carlos	LB	6-3	222	Michigan State
4	Reed, Jake	WR	6-3	216	Grambling
3	Baldwin, Randy	RB	5-10	216	Mississippi
5	Thome, Chris	C	6-4	285	Minnesota
6	Scott, Todd	DB	5-10	204	SW Louisiana
7	Reagan, Scott	DT	6-4	274	Humboldt St.
7	Welborne, Tripp	DB	6-0	205	Michigan
8	Johnson, Reggie	DE	6-2	274	Arizona
9	Hudson, Gerald	RB	6-4	199	Oklahoma St.
10	Pierce, Brady	T	6-6	291	Wisconsin
11	Cassidy, Ivan	LB	6-1	241	Boston College
12	Hughes, Darren	WR	5-10	172	Carson-Newman

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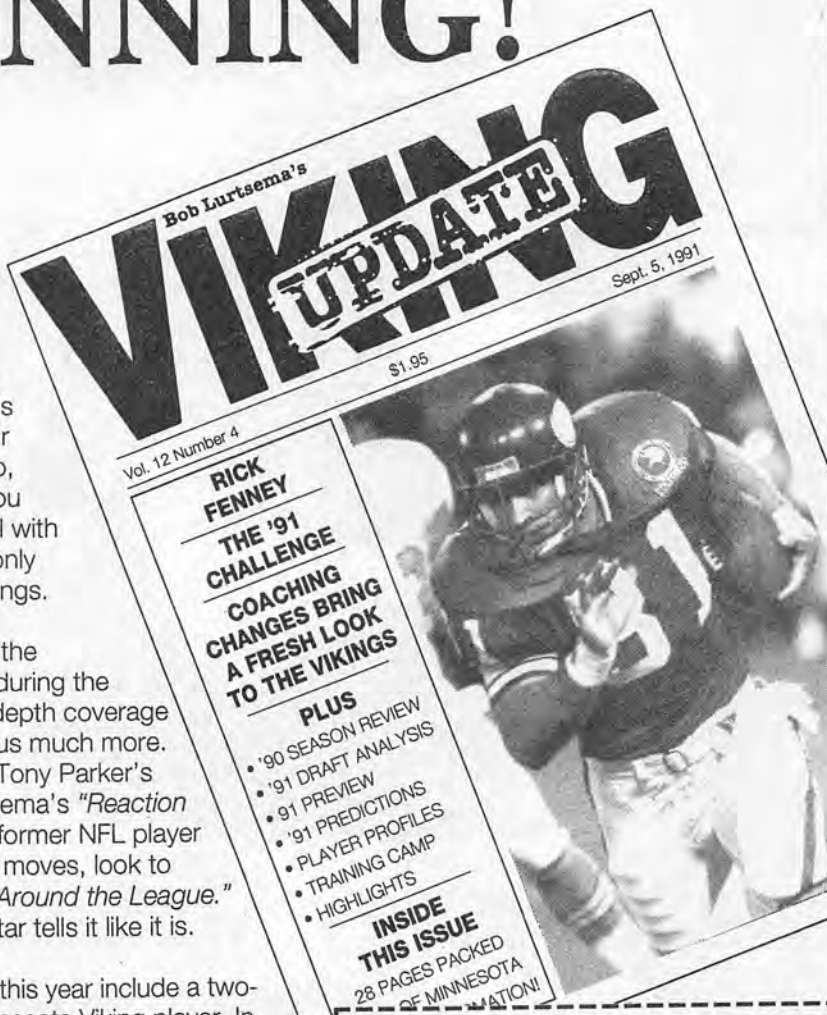
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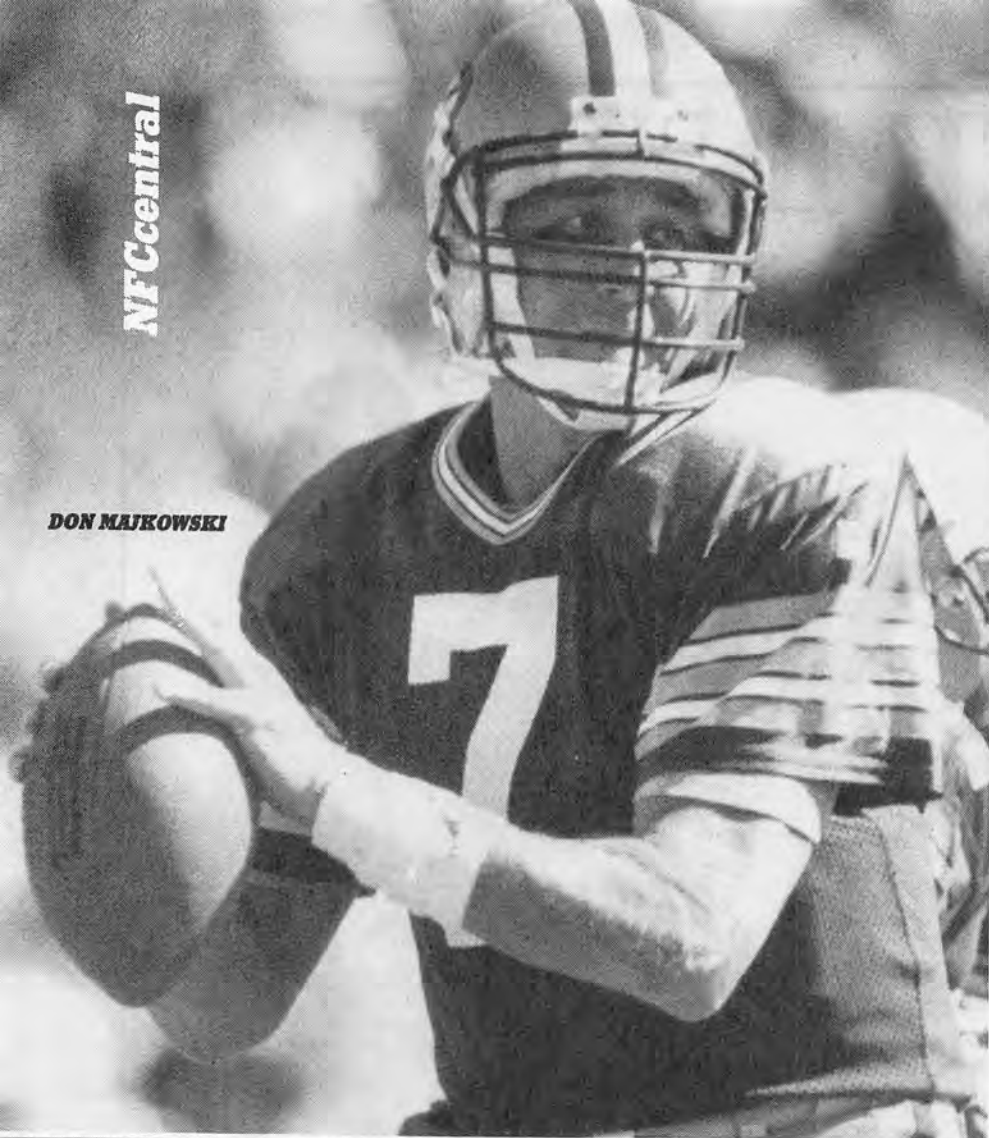
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DON MAJKOWSKI



GREEN BAY PACKERS

Coach Lindy Infante insists the difference between the 10-6 Packers of two years ago and the 6-10 Packers of last year is a matter of a few plays. "I'm telling you right now, this team is not that far away. We believe it. I believe it. We're going to be a championship-caliber football team, and in the not too distant future," Infante said.

In the present, the Packers have many problems to overcome. Their quarterback, Don Majkowski, is coming off shoulder surgery for a rotator-cuff tear and wasn't able to throw in mini-camps. The Packers again led the league in Plan B signings, with 13, but they had 29 unsigned veterans on February 1, including Majkowski and their best defensive player, linebacker Tim Harris. They brought in a new point man, Mike Reinfeldt, to handle contract negotiations.

Holdouts last season included 13 starters and 427 missed practices. The Packers allowed more sacks (62) and rushed for fewer yards per game (85.6) than in any season in their history. They finished 20th in total offense and 22nd in defense. They were 27th in sacks and tied for 26th in turnovers. Their first-round draft choices of the last two years—Tony Mandarich, Darrell Thompson, and Tony Bennett—are developing more slowly than 6-10 teams would like. They had to dump their 1987 first-round choice, reluctant running back Brent Fullwood. Their first-round draft choice this year, Ohio State cornerback Vince Clark, may not be able to start right away because the team thinks it already has two fairly good corners.

Yet Infante remains optimistic: "Losing is only a temporary situation. What happened to us last year isn't going to happen to us this year. We were in a situation where we weren't quite good enough to overcome the adversity that hit us. This year, we will be able to."

PACKERS 1990 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Jacke, 97 points on 28 extra points and 23 field goals... 6th
RUSHING—Haddix, 311 yards on 98 carries, 3.2 average... 30th
PASSING—Majkowski, 150 of 264 attempts for 1,925 yards and 10 TDs... 10th
RECEIVING—Sharpe, 67 receptions for 1,105 yards, 16.5 avg., 6 TDs... 8th
INTERCEPTIONS—Butler, 3 for 42 yards, 14.0 average... 16th
PUNTING—Bracken, 64 punts, 38.0 average, longest 59 yards... 13th
PUNT RETURNS—Query, 32 for 308 yards, 9.6 average... 4th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Wilson, 35 for 798 yards, 22.8 average... 3rd
SACKS—Harris, 7.0 sacks... T12th

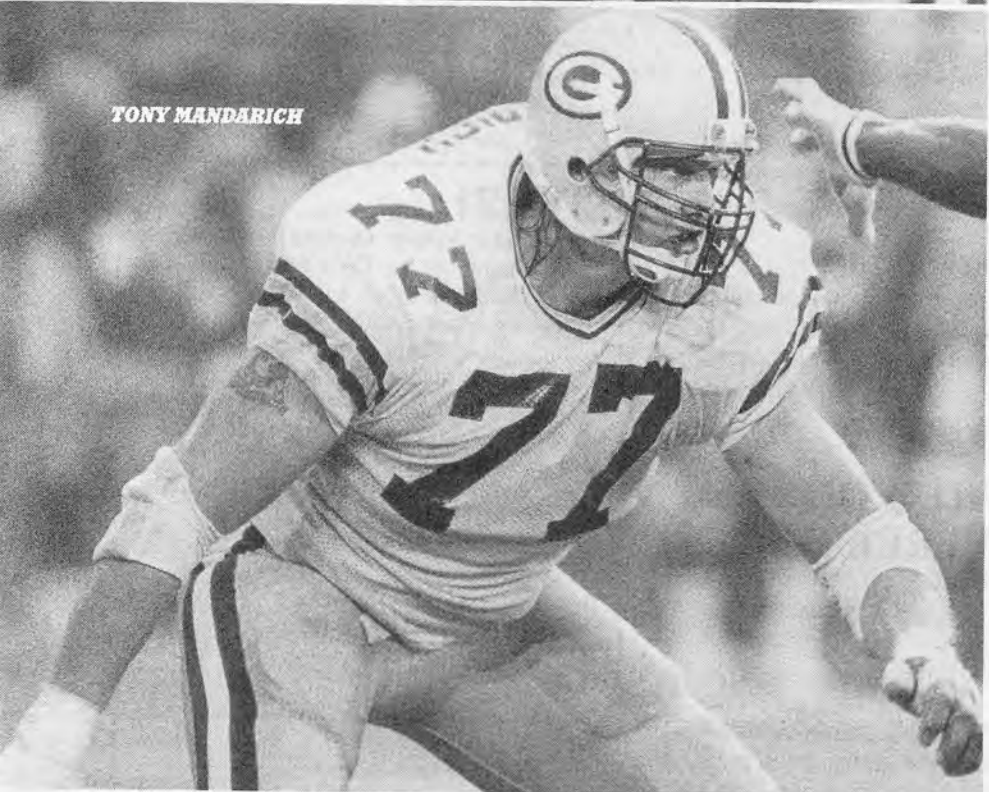
PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 3 NEW ENGLAND (N)
10 At New Orleans (N)
17 BUFFALO at Madison, WI
24 CINCINNATI at Milwaukee, WI (N)

1991 SCHEDULE

		1990 SCORES
September	1 PHILADELPHIA.....	0-31
	8 At Detroit.....	24-21
	15 TAMPA BAY.....	20-10
	22 At Miami.....	—
	29 At Los Angeles Rams.....	36-24
October	6 DALLAS at Milwaukee.....	—
	13 OPEN DATE.....	—
	17 CHICAGO (N).....	13-31
	27 At Tampa Bay.....	14-26
November	3 At New York Jets.....	—
	10 BUFFALO at Milwaukee.....	—
	17 MINNESOTA.....	24-10
	24 INDIANAPOLIS at Milwaukee.....	—
December	1 At Atlanta.....	—
	8 At Chicago.....	13-27
	15 DETROIT.....	17-24
	22 At Minnesota.....	7-23

TONY MANDARICH



PACKER REPORT



THE
PACKERS
CHALLENGE
THE NFC
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CROWN



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The season opened with some key players missing, the club couldn't win the close ones, nor could they string together a winning streak... yet as the season drew to an end they still had opportunities and controlled their own destiny to appear in the playoffs for the first time in years. We here at Packer Report feel the key ingredient has been cultivated over the past two years and that's *confidence*! This current team is hungry and anxious for camp to open and to revenge last seasons mistakes.

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The Packers anticipate changes in every area in order to rebound. They have only one signed, sealed, and healthy superstar, receiver Sterling Sharpe, who gutted it out on a broken rib toward the end of last season. "We just need more Sterling Sharpes. That's all there is to it," said Tom Braatz, vice president of football operations.

Majkowski is expected back strong. There were no complications in his surgery, but there will be questions until he performs. If his return is stalled by contract squabbles, it will compound the anxiety. The Packers picked up Plan B quarterback Mike Tomczak from the Bears as insurance and Tomczak has more experience than last year's sub, Anthony Dilweg. Tomczak is looking forward to learning a new system under Infante. Blair Kiel is also in the hunt for a roster spot.

Opposite Sharpe at wide receiver, the Packers want Jeff Query and Charles Wilson to challenge Perry Kemp for the starting job. They protected Clarence Weathers, who came up with some big third-down plays last year. They think they might have an eighth-round steal in Texas receiver Johnny Walker, who wants to play baseball and football. At tight end, second-year man Jackie Harris may be ready to give Ed West a run for the starting position, although West's blocking is superior and his receiving is surprisingly good.

The running-back positions are open for competition. Keith Woodside has the inside track at halfback ahead of Vince Workman. Infante would love to see Thompson emerge at fullback, but the Packers drafted Tennessee's Chuck Webb in the third round and think he can recover from anterior cruciate surgery to challenge for playing time. Michael Haddix

was the starter most of last season. Plan B pickup Allen Rice of Minnesota could push Herman Fontenot for the third-down receiving back. The Packers finished 26th in rushing.

Improvement on the offensive line is vital if the Packers hope to protect their quarterback and increase their run production. Guards Rich Moran and Ron Hallstrom are expected to replace Billy Ard and Keith Uecker from the start this year. Last year, Moran and Hallstrom held out and reported two weeks before the season opener, but couldn't regain their jobs until it was too late. Mandarich struggled in his second season at right tackle, but the Packers left Alan Veingrad unprotected and he bolted for Dallas. The Packers picked up Glenn Derby from New Orleans and Scott Jones from the Jets. Left tackle Ken Ruettgers, who missed five games with arthroscopic surgery on both knees, is healthy again. James Campen is solid at center.

On defense, second-round draft choice Esera Tuaolo of Oregon State has a chance to win the nose tackle job from Bob Nelson. If not, Tuaolo can contribute immediately by singing the national anthem, as he did at the Senior Bowl. Third-rounder Don Davey of Wisconsin also has a chance to play quickly at end opposite Matt Brock. Robert Brown needs competition on the right side. Shawn Patterson is an injury-plagued pass rusher. Mark Hall and Lester Archambeau also have a chance to compete.

Bennett will be given every opportunity to beat out Scott Stephen at left outside linebacker. If Harris is late reporting, Bennett's development is mandatory. Brian Noble is returning from a knee injury to anchor the inside next to Johnny Holland, with Burnell Dent and Bryce Paup as backups and Plan B returnee Greg Clark in the picture again. Also present via Plan B from Indianapolis is Kurt Larson.

In the secondary, Clark is expected to be groomed behind left cornerback Mark Lee. Last year's second-round choice, LeRoy Butler, will be tried in place of starter Jerry Holmes on the right side with Plan B additions Roland Mitchell of Atlanta and Ventson Donelson of New England joining Ron Pitts as reserve corners. Chuck Cecil is back from a knee injury to reclaim his free-safety job beside strong safety Mark Murphy. Jerry Woods, Rice Labbe, free agent Brian Hudson and Plan B addition Tim Hauck of New England are reserves.

The Packers drafted punter Jeff Fite of Memphis State in the fifth round to replace

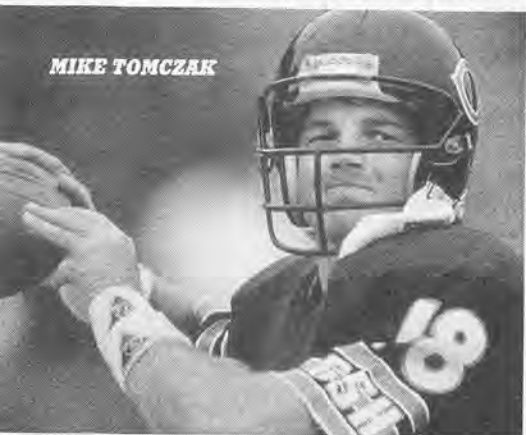
Don Bracken. Fite will hold for place-kicker Chris Jacke. Query returns punts and Wilson returns kickoffs. Together, they gave the Packers their best pair of return men since the 1960s. The Packers need more of the same.

PACKERS VETERAN ROSTER

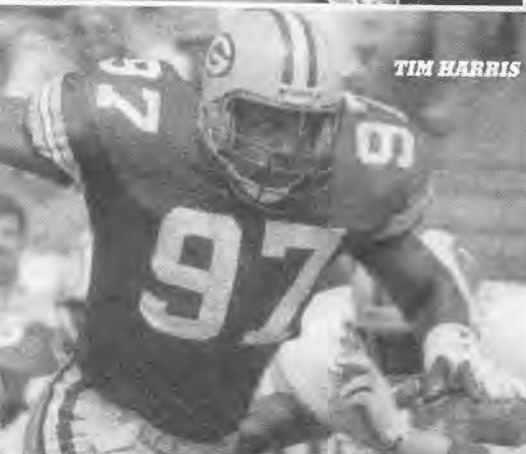
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32	Brown, Dave	CB	6-1	201	38	Michigan
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51	Bush, Blair	C	6-3	273	35	Washington
36	Butler, LeRoy	CB	6-0	192	23	Florida State
63	Campen, James	C	6-2	275	27	Tulane
26	Cecil, Chuck	S	6-0	188	27	Arizona
78	Cheek, Louis	OL	6-6	295	27	Texas A&M
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	Douglas, Derrick	RB	5-10	205	23	La. Tech
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9	Witkowski, Dean	LB	6-2	233	North Dakota
10	Porter, Rapier	TE	6-2	272	Ark-Pine Bluff
11	Wierenga, J.J.	DT	6-3	272	Central Michigan
12	Collins, Linzy	WR	6-1	185	Missouri



MIKE TOMCZAK



TIM HARRIS



SCOTT STEPHEN

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Richard Williamson coached the Buccaneers for three games after Ray Perkins was fired last season. The Bucs won one, making Williamson's winning percentage of .333 the highest in team history. Owner Hugh Culverhouse was pressed to explain why he elevated Williamson from the interim job.

"You ask me why, and it's because I think he's the best man for the job at this time. I would rather not go into discussing all the merits. I'm not sure I have a good answer," Culverhouse said.

Williamson has only a two-year contract, but no owner in football is more patient than Culverhouse, unless he decides to turn over the coaching calls to daughter Gay, the club's new president. When Bill Walsh turned down the opportunity to help the Bucs realize their potential, Williamson was the logical choice. After all, he had earned the recommendation of quarterback Vinny Testaverde, who is supposed to be The Franchise.

The Buccaneers are a franchise that refuses to develop. For the third season in a row, they were the league's youngest team. As usual, they showed spunk, as in their 42 takeaways, third in the league. As usual, they went kerplunk, as in their 43 giveaways, second in the league. Testaverde had a streak of performances early that got the Bucs off to a 3-1 start with the fifth-place schedule. But two losses in three weeks to Dallas knocked them back to more familiar surroundings. They finished 6-10 like all their hapless buddies in the division except Chicago. Unfortunately, they weren't bad enough to wrest another fifth-place schedule from the ruins. That honor goes to Minnesota.

Since the Bucs finished 24th in offense and

VINNY TESTAVERDE



GARY ANDERSON

24th in defense, it was a coin flip as to which area to address in the draft. They preferred defense, but ended up making tackle Charles McRae of Tennessee, the first offensive player selected. Drafting seventh, the Bucs selected among the top 10 for the seventh consecutive year, a dubious distinction they would dearly love to forsake.

Testaverde, still young but no longer inexperienced, is coming off his best statistical year as far as passer rating (75.6, compared with a career 59). But he still threw more interceptions (18) than touchdown passes (17) and has yet to demonstrate he can turn that around. Chris Chandler, who will cost the

BUCCANEERS 1990 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Christie, 96 points on 27 extra points and 23 field goals... 17th
RUSHING—Anderson, 646 yards on 166 carries, 3.9 avg., 3 TDs... 13th
PASSING—Testaverde, 203 of 365 attempts for 2,818 yards and 17 TDs... 9th
RECEIVING—Carrier, 49 receptions for 813 yards, 16.6 avg., 4 TDs... 117th
INTERCEPTIONS—Haddix, 7 for 231 yards, 33.0 average, 3 TDs... 12nd
PUNTING—Royals, 72 punts, 40.3 average, longest 62 yards... 10th
PUNT RETURNS—Drewrey, 23 for 184 yards, 8.0 average... 9th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Peebles, 18 for 369 yards, 20.5 average... unranked
SACKS—Thomas, 11.5 sacks... 111th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 5 At Cleveland (N)
10 MIAMI (N)
17 At Atlanta (N)
23 KANSAS CITY (N)

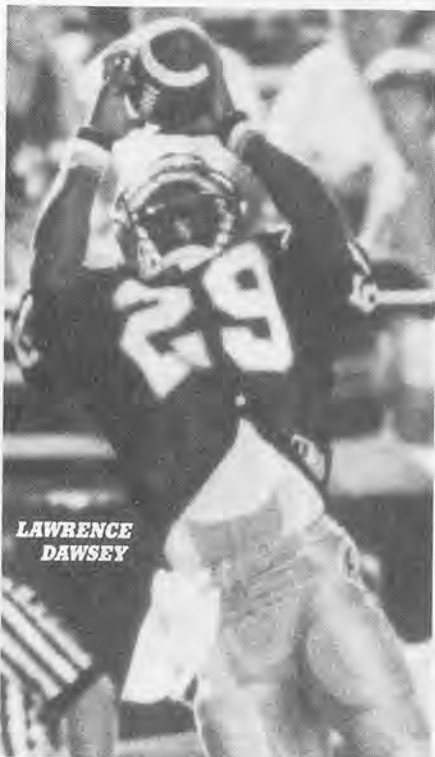
1991 SCHEDULE

		1990 SCORES
September	1 At New York Jets.....	14-16
	8 CHICAGO.....	6-26
	15 At Green Bay.....	10-20
	22 BUFFALO.....	—
	29 At Detroit.....	23-20
October	6 PHILADELPHIA.....	—
	13 OPEN DATE.....	—
	20 At New Orleans.....	7-35
	27 GREEN BAY.....	26-14
November	3 At Minnesota.....	23-20
	10 DETROIT.....	23-20
	17 At Atlanta.....	23-17
	24 NEW YORK GIANTS.....	—
December	1 At Miami.....	—
	8 MINNESOTA (N).....	26-13
	14 At Chicago.....	14-27
	22 INDIANAPOLIS.....	—

Bucs their No. 1 draft choice to Indianapolis next year, started three games for Perkins and was 0-3, throwing six interceptions and only one touchdown pass. Jeff Carlson and rookie Pat O'Hara, who used to play ahead of Todd Marinovich at USC, are the reserves.

Williamson hired long-time college coach Morris Watts to tutor the quarterbacks and named long-time NFL assistant Hank Kuhlmann his running backs coach and coordinator. Former receivers coach Williamson will call his own shots on offense.

Mark Carrier and Bruce Hill are the key targets at wide receiver, but fast Danny Peebles is coming off a knee injury and third-rounder Lawrence Dawsey was called simply the toughest receiver in college. If Dawsey fights for the football the same way he did in school, the Bucs might wonder why he is only their second draft choice ever from neighboring



LAWRENCE DAWSEY

Florida State. Carrier must regain his 1989 Pro Bowl form for the Bucs to improve significantly in receiving. Tight end Ron Hall routinely gets Pro Bowl votes from division rivals who see him twice a year. He is backed up by Jesse Anderson. The reserve wideouts include Chris Ford and Willie Drewrey.

Another third-rounder is fullback Robert Wilson of Texas A & M, who is supposed to allow Reggie Cobb to move to tailback and spell Gary Anderson. Cobb is more durable than Anderson, who is more effective away from the tackles. John Harvey and Bruce Perkins are backups.

McRae is penciled in at right tackle in place of Rob Taylor. The left tackle is the 1988 No. 1 choice, Paul Gruber. Guard was a problem position last year, so the starters are any two from the quartet of Tom McHale, Ian Beckles, Scott Dill, and John Bruhin. Center Randy Grimes could be pushed by Tony Mayberry. Carl Bax is a guard-tackle backup.

Floyd Peters joined the Bucs as defensive coordinator from the Vikings, where he contin-

ued his track record of success that extends to the Cardinals, Lions, and 49ers. He immediately found a way to get No. 1 linebackers Broderick Thomas and Keith McCants onto the field at the same time, something last year's staff couldn't do. Peters showed McCants how he converted the Vikings' all-pro Chris Doleman to a down lineman, and McCants will not play from a three-point stance on the right side.

Finding three cohorts to rush the passer in the Peters tradition may take a while longer. Peters had Tim "the Kitchen" Newton at Minnesota. They like Reuben Davis at end or tackle if he can stay healthy. He has shown more interest in offseason conditioning. Jim Skow is strictly an end. Robb White and Plan B pickups Marlon Jones from Cleveland and Darrell Robertson from Detroit are factors, plus sixth-rounder Rhett Hall. Unless McCants is sensational, it appears Peters is more than a season away from adding another nickname to his front-four collection (Gold Rush, Silver Rush).

Thomas will stay at left linebacker and Kevin Murphy will move to right linebacker. The middle position is between Eugene Marve and Ervin Randle and suddenly the Bucs don't have the depth they once enjoyed. They traded Winston Moss to the Raiders and lost Sidney Coleman to Phoenix via Plan B, so middle-round draftees Calvin Tiggel of Georgia Tech and Terry Bagsby of East Texas State will get long looks along with special-teams' ace Sam Anno.

Ricky Reynolds and last year's interception phenom (seven) Wayne Haddix are the cornerbacks with Eric Everett and Rodney Rice in reserve. Williamson would prefer some change at safety, where Mark Robinson and



REGGIE COBB

Harry Hamilton are too slow for comfort. Had UCLA's Eric Turner fallen to them in the draft, the Bucs probably would have passed on McRae. As it turned out, fourth-rounder Tony Covington of Virginia will get a shot at Hamilton's free-safety position. Plan B addition William Frizzell of Philadelphia and development-squad holdover Darrell Reed and eighth-rounder Marty Carter of Middle Tennessee State all have a chance.

"We talked a lot about trying to improve our defense, but we realized that due to the nature of this year's draft it was a strong possibility we would end up drafting offensive players," Williamson admitted.

Steve Christie did a good job kicking after beating out popular Donald Igwebiuke. Mark Royals is the punter. Peebles is the kick-return man and Drewrey returned punts, although ninth-rounder Treamele Taylor of Nevada is a return specialist.

BUCCANEERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
40	Anderson, Gary	RB	6-1	190	30	Arkansas
89	Anderson, Jesse	TE	6-2	245	25	Mississippi St.
56	Anno, Sam	LB	6-2	235	26	Southern Cal
75	Bax, Carl	G	6-4	290	25	Missouri
62	Beckles, Ian	G	6-1	295	24	Indiana
69	Bruhin, John	G	6-3	285	27	Tennessee
78	Cannon, John	DE	6-5	265	31	William & Mary
7	Carlson, Jeff	QB	6-3	215	25	Weber St.
88	Carrier, Mark	WR	6-0	185	26	Nicholls St.
17	Chandler, Chris	QB	6-4	220	26	Washington
2	Christie, Steve	K	6-0	185	24	William & Mary
33	Cobb, Reggie	RB	6-0	225	23	Tennessee
79	Davis, Reuben	DE	6-4	285	26	North Carolina
76	Dill, Scott	G	6-5	285	25	Memphis St.
87	Drewrey, Willie	WR	5-7	170	28	West Virginia
42	Everett, Eric	DB	5-10	170	25	Texas Tech
81	Ford, Chris	WR	6-1	185	24	Lamar
21	Frizzell, William	DB	6-3	205	29	N. C. Central
60	Grimes, Randy	C	6-4	275	31	Baylor
74	Gruber, Paul	T	6-5	290	26	Wisconsin
45	Haddix, Wayne	CB	6-1	205	28	Liberty
82	Hall, Ron	TE	6-4	245	27	Hawaii
39	Hamilton, Harry	S	6-0	195	29	Penn St.
26	Harvey, John	RB	5-11	185	25	UTEP
84	Hill, Bruce	WR	6-0	180	27	Arizona St.
97	Jones, Marlon	DE	6-4	270	27	Central St.
38	Lawson, Jamie	RB	5-10	240	26	Nicholls St.
99	Marve, Eugene	LB	6-2	240	31	Saginaw Valley
61	Mayberry, Tony	C	6-4	285	24	Wake Forest
52	McCants, Keith	LB	6-3	255	23	Alabama
73	McHale, Tom	G	6-4	280	28	Cornell
59	Murphy, Kevin	LB	6-2	235	28	Oklahoma
96	Newton, Tim	NT	6-0	275	28	Florida
83	Peebles, Danny	WR	5-11	180	25	N. C. St.
32	Perkins, Bruce	RB	6-2	230	24	Arizona St.
54	Randle, Ervin	LB	6-1	250	29	Baylor
29	Reynolds, Ricky	CB	5-11	190	26	Washington St.
31	Rice, Rodney	CB	5-8	180	25	BYU
30	Robinson, Mark	S	5-11	200	29	Penn St.
3	Royals, Mark	P	6-5	215	27	Appalachian St.
98	Seals, Ray	DE	6-3	270	26	None
71	Skow, Jim	DE	6-3	250	28	Nebraska
72	Taylor, Rob	T	6-6	290	31	Northwestern
14	Testaverde, Vinny	QB	6-5	215	28	Miami
51	Thomas, Broderick	LB	6-4	245	24	Nebraska
86	Thomas, Ed	TE	6-3	235	25	Houston
91	White, Robb	DE	6-5	280	26	South Dakota

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	McRae, Charles	OT	6-7	291	Tennessee
3	Dawsey, Lawrence	WR	6-0	192	Florida State
3	Wilson, Robert	RB	6-0	240	Texas A&M
4	Covington, Tony	DB	5-10	189	Virginia
5	Bagsby, Terry	RB	6-1	235	East Texas St.
5	Ryan, Tim	G	6-2	277	Notre Dame
6	Hall, Rhett	DT	6-3	260	California
7	Tiggel, Calvin	LB	6-1	237	Georgia Tech
8	Carter, Marty	DB	6-1	200	Middle Tenn. St.
9	Taylor, Treamele	WR	5-10	175	Nevada
10	O'Hara, Pat	QB	6-3	200	Southern Cal
10	Hickson, Hyland	RB	5-9	220	Michigan State
11	Survold, Mike	DT	6-4	255	Minnesota
12	Chamblee, Al	LB	6-1	235	Louisiana Tech



DETROIT LIONS

Time will tell whether the Lions know what they're doing. History tells a story of failure. The present suggests confusion. Coach Wayne Fontes prefers to look at the future. After 7-9 and 6-10 seasons, the club's sixth and seventh losing records in succession, Fontes is aiming for 1992 as much as 1991.

"It's [1992] the fourth year of a program. You either win it or come close to winning it or something's wrong. After all the problems the Lions have had over the past 30 years, to believe I could get it done in three years, I'd have to be a magician."

Unless Fontes pulls something out of his hat, the 1991 season appears to be yet another step in the rebuilding process that frustrates Detroit fans. Only once since 1980 have the Lions compiled a winning record. That was a 9-7 division championship under Monte Clark in 1983.

Lack of success is one thing; lack of planning is another. The Lions seem to keep changing—coaches, philosophies, players, goals. The more they change, the more they stay the same. Fontes lost run-and-shoot guru Mouse Davis to the World League and quarterback coach June Jones to Atlanta. Two years after deciding the run-and-shoot was the answer, the Lions are now committed to a hybrid offense that includes tight ends at

times and two backs at times. Davis couldn't stand the thought.

The little receivers are being replaced by bigger receivers. Andre Ware, the Heisman Trophy run-and-shoot quarterback drafted No. 1 in 1990, remains in limbo. The defense, 28th in the league last season, is wrestling between using the 3-4 or 4-3 as the basic set. It might depend on the happiness of nose tackle Jerry Ball, who looks like a nose tackle but rushes the passer like an end. Restricting him to a two-gap position might be stifling the team's best defensive lineman.

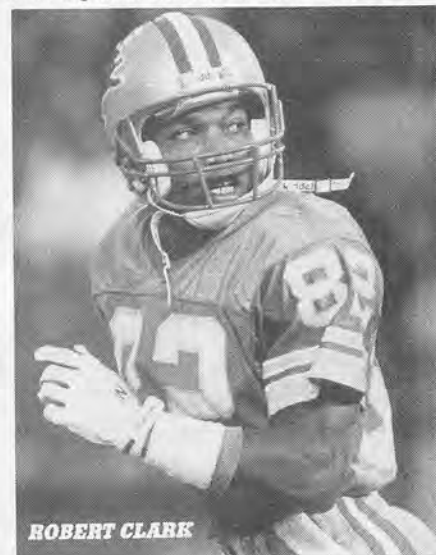
Still traumatized by blowing a 21-point lead to the Redskins because they couldn't control the ball, the Lions think they can use more power formations when they have to kill the clock or grind out short yardage. New offensive coordinator Dave Levy and quarterback coach Raymond Berry will have their work cut out for them.

"I'm not changing the offense," Fontes said. "We're still a run-and-shoot team. All we want to do is get a few more things in for Barry and keep basically the same things we're doing. I think Barry is a great player and we're going to get the ball in his hands a few more times."

Barry Sanders is both problem and solution. He led the league in rushing in his second season last year and yet Fontes and his staff were constantly criticized for ignoring him.

Davis maintained it was a false argument to suggest Sanders would gain twice as many yards given twice as many attempts. But after a 30-10 loss to Seattle in which Sanders gained 23 yards on nine carries, Fontes admitted, "Any time we give Barry the ball only nine times, we'll have trouble winning."

Sanders is a fabulous runner, able to start and stop and change directions as no one before him. The run-and-shoot spreads defenses to get Sanders one-on-one, but Sanders is so good that coaches agree he would be effective in any offense. The problem is when to tighten down, when to use two backs, when to practice all the sets you plan to use. James Wilder is a proven performer who sometimes replaced Sanders because he is a better blocker. Wilder will be used both as a fullback and a slotback to give the offense more power. The Lions also drafted a fullback in the eighth round, TCU's Cedric Jackson.



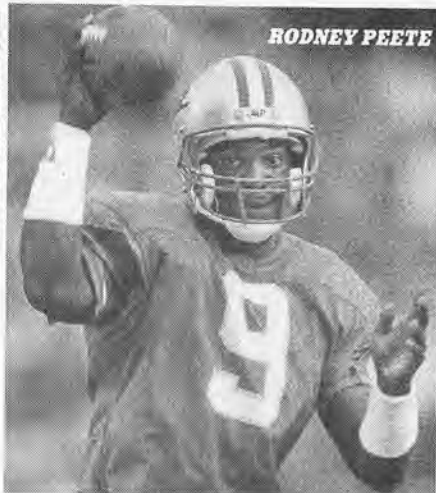
LIONS 1990 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Sanders, 96 points on 13 TD rushes and 3 TD receptions... 17th
RUSHING—Sanders, 1,304 yards on 255 carries, 5.1 avg., 13 TDs... 1st
PASSING—Peete, 142 of 271 attempts for 1,974 yards and 13 TDs... 5th
RECEIVING—Johnson, 64 receptions for 727 yards, 11.4 avg., 6 TDs... 19th
INTERCEPTIONS—White, 5 for 120 yards, 24.0 avg., 1 TD... 14th
PUNTING—Arnold, 63 punts, 40.6 average, longest 59 yards... 8th
PUNT RETURNS—Gray, 34 for 361 yards, 10.6 average... 3rd
KICKOFF RETURNS—Gray, 41 for 939 yards, 22.9 average... 2nd
SACKS—Cofer, 10.0 sacks... 7th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July	27	Denver at Canton, OH
August	2	CINCINNATI (N)
	10	At Buffalo (N)
	17	At Kansas City (N)
	23	PITTSBURGH (N)

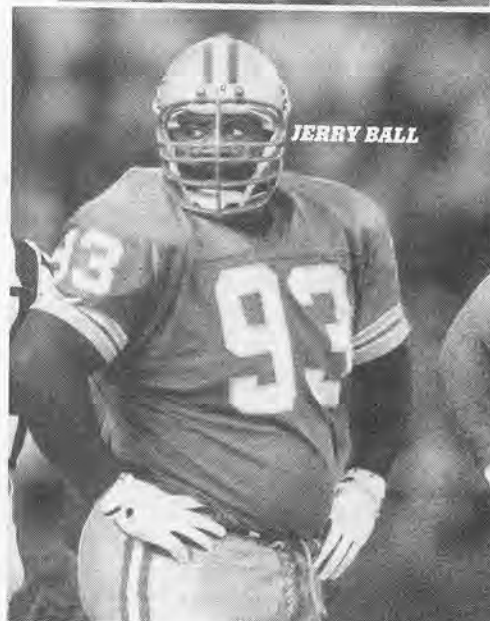
1991 SCHEDULE		1990 SCORES
September	1 At Washington (N)	38-41
	8 GREEN BAY	21-24
	15 MIAMI	—
	22 At Indianapolis	—
	29 TAMPA BAY	20-23
October	6 MINNESOTA	7-17
	13 OPEN DATE	—
	20 At San Francisco	—
	27 DALLAS	—
November	3 At Chicago	17-23
	10 At Tampa Bay	20-23
	17 LOS ANGELES RAMS	—
	24 At Minnesota	34-27
	28 CHICAGO	38-21
December	8 NEW YORK JETS	—
	15 At Green Bay	24-17
	22 At Buffalo	—



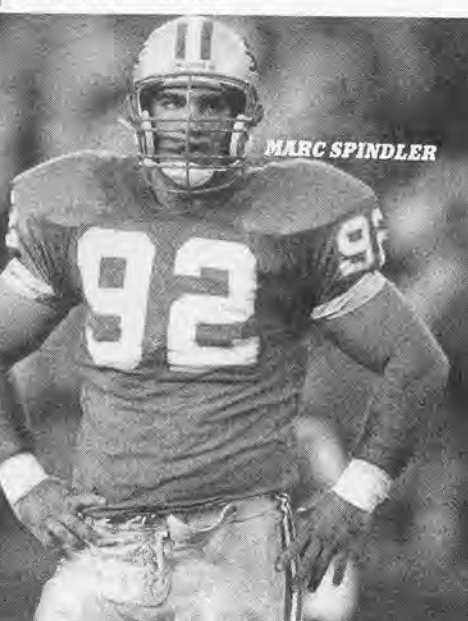
RODNEY PEETE

Tackles Lomas Brown and Harvey Salem and center Kevin Glover are solid. Left guard Eric Andolsek might have had a better year than anyone. Mike Utley could beat out Ken Dallafior at right guard. Eric Sanders is a proven backup and fifth-round tackle Scott Conover of Purdue and Mike Graybill from Phoenix via Plan B add depth.

The addition of Mississippi defensive lineman Kelvin Pritchett in a first-round trade with Dallas will give Dan Owens competition at right end. The return of Marc Spindler from serious knee surgery could give Keith Ferguson something to think about at left end. Ball and Lawrence Pete are the nose tackles. But if enough defensive linemen show promise, coordinator Woody Widenhofer could shift to more four-man alignments. Last year, pass-rushing linebacker Mike Cofer was effective as a fourth lineman.



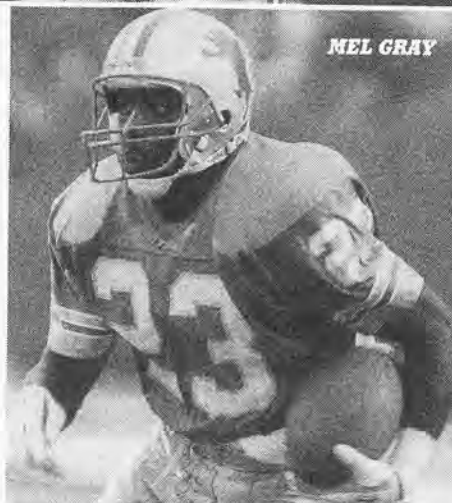
JERRY BALL



MARC SPINDLER

Rodney Peete won the quarterback job by improving more between his rookie and sophomore years than anyone might have imagined. In fact, if the Lions had known Peete was going to go from five touchdown passes to 13 and drop from nine interceptions to eight, they probably wouldn't have drafted Ware. But they refused to dangle Ware as trade bait in talks for Notre Dame's Raghib Ismail, saying they expect Ware to challenge Peete.

Berry never has coached quarterbacks before, but he knows something about big targets and he can be thankful for Herman Moore and Reggie Barrett. The 6-4 Moore from Virginia was the club's first draft choice and figures on the wide right side of the four-wide-receiver set. The 6-3 Barrett of UTEP is the third-round choice who will line up inside left with Aubrey Matthews. The Lions lost top receiver Richard Johnson in Plan B. Robert Clark led the club with eight touchdown catches and figures on the wide left. Jeff Campbell and Plan B pickup Frank Pillow must contend with 11th-rounder Slip Watkins of LSU, who might be faster than any other receiver in the draft. Jobs for wide receivers will be limited this year with the addition of Plan B tight end Eugene Riley from the Colts and seventh-round tight end Franklin Thomas of Grambling.



MEL GRAY

If inside linebacker Dennis Gibson returns strong from an arch injury to join leading tackler Chris Spielman, the Lions might decide they have more good linebackers than linemen, with Cofer and George Jamison on the flanks. Victor Jones, Toby Caston, Mark Brown, and Niko Noga are backups.

Fourth-round cornerback Kevin Scott of Stanford will get every chance to replace the

retired Leroy Irvin on the right side, where ex-Giant Sheldon White and Seattle Plan B pickup Melvin Jenkins are his competition. Ray Crockett had a good year on the left side and Bruce McNorton is returning from injured reserve (arm). Strong safety William White was outstanding last year and the Lions are still waiting for free safety Bennie Blades to justify the third overall pick in the 1988 draft. Chris Oldham and Herb Welch are the subs.

Place-kicker Eddie Murray is fighting a hip flexor injury and the challenge of sixth-round-er Richie Anders of Florida State. Jim Arnold is coming off a slump, and few kick-return men are better than Mel Gray.

LIONS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
32	Alexander, Bruce	CB	5-9	169	26	S.F. Austin
65	Andolsek, Eric	G	6-2	286	25	LSU
6	Arnold, Jim	P	6-3	211	30	Vanderbilt
93	Ball, Jerry	NT	6-1	298	27	SMU
36	Blades, Bennie	S	6-1	221	25	Miami
66	Bouwens, Shawn	OG	6-4	280	23	Neb-Wesleyan
75	Brown, Lomas	T	6-4	287	28	Florida
52	Brown, Mark	LB	6-2	240	30	Purdue
87	Campbell, Jeff	WR	5-8	167	23	Colorado
50	Caston, Toby	ILB	6-1	243	26	LSU
59	Chesley, Delmar	ILB	6-2	235	25	Southern Cal
80	Claiborne, Robert	WR	5-10	175	24	San Diego St.
82	Clark, Robert	WR	5-11	173	26	N.C. Central
55	Cofer, Michael	OLB	6-5	244	31	Tennessee
39	Crockett, Ray	CB	5-9	181	24	Baylor
67	Dallafior, Ken	OL	6-4	279	32	Minnesota
91	Duckens, Mark	DE	6-4	270	26	Arizona State
81	Farr, Mike	WR	5-10	192	24	UCLA
77	Ferguson, Keith	DE	6-5	276	32	Ohio State
69	Fortin, Roman	T	6-5	270	24	San Diego St.
98	Gibson, Dennis	ILB	6-2	243	27	Iowa State
53	Glover, Kevin	C	6-2	282	28	Maryland
23	Gray, Mel	WR	5-9	162	30	Purdue
74	Graybill, Michael	OT	6-7	280	25	Boston U.
86	Green, Willie	WR	6-2	179	25	Mississippi
89	Greer, Terry	WR	6-1	192	34	Alabama St.
	Hadd, Gary	DE	6-4	278	26	Minnesota
99	Hayworth, Tracy	LB	6-3	250	24	Tennessee
95	Hinckley, Rob	OLB	6-4	241	24	Stanford
97	Hunter, Jeff	DE	6-5	285	25	Albany State
58	Jamison, George	LB	6-1	228	29	Cincinnati
	Jenkins, Melvin	CB	5-10	173	29	Cincinnati
57	Jones, Victor	ILB	6-2	240	25	Virginia Tech
12	Kramer, Erik	QB	6-1	195	27	N.C. State
83	Matthews, Aubrey	WR	5-7	165	29	Delta State
29	McNorton, Bruce	CB	5-11	175	32	Georgetown (Ky)
3	Murray, Eddie	K	5-10	180	36	Tulane
51	Noga, Niko	LB	6-1	235	29	Hawaii
42	Oldham, Chris	CB	5-9	183	23	Oregon
33	Overton, Don	RB	6-0	221	24	Fairmont State
70	Owens, Dan	DE	6-3	268	24	Southern Cal
9	Peete, Rodney	QB	6-0	193	25	Southern Cal
96	Pete, Lawrence	NT	6-0	282	25	Nebraska
4	Pillow, Frank	WR	5-11	170	26	Tennessee St.
44	Riley, Eugene	TE	6-3	238	25	Ball State
73	Salem, Harvey	OL	6-6	289	30	California
20	Sanders, Barry	SB	5-8	203	23	Oklahoma St.
64	Sanders, Eric	OL	6-7	286	33	Nevada-Reno
54	Spielman, Chris	ILB	6-0	247	26	Ohio State
92	Spindler, Marc	DL	6-5	277	22	Pittsburgh
60	Utley, Mike	OL	6-6	279	26	Washington
26	Van Horse, Sean	CB	5-10	180	23	Howard
43	Wallace, Darrell	RB	5-9	180	26	Missouri
11	Ware, Andre	CB	6-2	205	23	Houston
45	Ware, Riley	CB	5-9	175	25	W. Kentucky
28	Welch, Herb	S	5-11	180	30	UCLA
25	White, Sheldon	CB	5-11	188	26	Miami (OH)
35	White, William	DB	5-10	191	25	Ohio State
34	Wilder, James	SB	6-3	225	33	Missouri

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Moore, Herman	WR	6-4	205	Virginia
1	Pritchett, Kelvin	DL	6-2	280	Mississippi
3	Barrett, Reggie	WR	6-3	215	Texas-El Paso
4	Scott, Kevin	DB	5-9	175	Stanford
5	Conover, Scott	G	6-4	282	Purdue
6	Andrews, Richie	K	5-11	165	Florida State
7	Thomas, Franklin	TE	6-3	260	Grambling
8	Jackson, Cedric	RB	6-0	227	TCU
9	Milburn, Darryl	DE	6-3	257	Grambling
11	Watkins, Slip	WR	5-9	178	LSU
12	Alexander, Zeno	LB	6-1	224	Arizona

NFC West



JOE MONTANA



JERRY RICE

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

The 49ers broke up that old gang of theirs, not because they failed by seconds to get to their third straight Super Bowl, but because it was time. This is no dumb organization, so it is doubtful they would have guaranteed another year for Ronnie Lott, Roger Craig, Matt Millen, Keena Turner, Eric Wright, or Mike Wilson, come three-peat or not. Nostalgia is for fans, not for coaches or general managers.

Joe Montana and Jerry Rice survived the purge. That's the bad news for doomsayers predicting the demise of the 49er dynasty. For those who think the run is over, remember 1987, when the 49ers were rudely ousted from the playoffs by the Minnesota Vikings. Even Bill Walsh wondered whether Montana's day was done and it was time for Steve Young to assume the quarterback mantle. Two Super Bowls and a new decade later, Young is still waiting for Montana to get old.

Lott and Craig went south to the Los Angeles Raiders via Plan B. Their performances have leveled off, but both are still capable of the effort and production it takes to make a difference. Over the years, Lott was as responsible for molding the attitude of coach George Seifert's defense as Montana was of molding Walsh's offense. His absence could change the nature of a defense that finished third in the league last year.

Unfortunately, Craig's last down for the 49ers was a fumble. The guy had two fumbles all season and some ungrateful fans will remember the one that cost the NFC title to the Giants. At 30, Craig had lost something, but as soon as the Raiders signed him, the 49ers started scrambling to find a replacement. Applications are still being accepted.

If letting Craig and Lott go was a mistake, it won't be so easily corrected as owner Eddie DeBartolo's ill-advised decision to purge San

FORTY-NINERS 1990 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Cofer, 111 points on 39 on extra points and 24 field goals. . . 3rd
RUSHING—Carter, 460 yards on 114 carries, 4.0 avg., 1TD. . . 19th
PASSING—Montana, 321 of 520 attempts for 3,944 yards and 26 TDs. . . 3rd
RECEIVING—Rice, 100 receptions for 1,502 yards, 15.0 avg., 13 TDs. . . 1st
INTERCEPTIONS—Waymer, 7 for 64 yards, 9.1 average. . . T2nd
PUNTING—Helton, 69 punts, 36.8 average, longest 56 yards. . . 14th
PUNT RETURNS—Taylor, 26 for 212 yards, 8.2 average. . . 8th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Carter, 41 for 783 yards, 19.1 average. . . 12th
SACKS—Haley, 16.0 sacks. . . 1st

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July	27	At L.A. Raiders
August	3	Chicago at Berlin, Germany (N)
	7	DENVER (N)
	19	SAN DIEGO (N)
	23	At Seattle (N)

1991 SCHEDULE		1990 SCORES
September	2 At New York Giants (N)	7-3
	8 SAN DIEGO	—
	15 At Minnesota	20-17
	22 LOS ANGELES RAMS	17-28
	29 At Los Angeles Raiders	—
October	6 OPEN DATE	—
	13 At Atlanta	45-35
	20 DETROIT	—
	27 At Philadelphia	—
November	3 ATLANTA	19-13
	10 At New Orleans	13-12
	17 PHOENIX	—
	25 At Los Angeles Rams (N)	26-10
December	1 NEW ORLEANS	10-13
	8 At Seattle	—
	14 KANSAS CITY	—
	23 CHICAGO (N)	—

NFCwest

Francisco from the team logo. As soon as the S.F. was erased from the helmet, irate citizens made Eddie wish he'd left his heart in Santa Clara. The S.F. is back after a brief hiatus. DeBartolo can only hope his team will follow.

Montana is the key, even if his magical throwing hand was held together with screws. Broken by Leonard Marshall in the loss to the Giants, the hand is healthy and the screws have been removed. Montana is expected to remove any doubt soon, but the 49ers made certain their \$2 million backup, Young, remains happy and ready to go.

The incomparable Rice enters his seventh season and just keeps getting better. He caught a career-high 100 passes last year and won't turn 29 until midseason. Tight end Brent Jones caught 56, wideout John Taylor added 49, and fullback Tom Rathman 48 to the offense that almost didn't need to run. The return of Mike Sherrard from injury should provide a boost, and the 49ers like last year's third-rounder, Ronald Lewis. Up their sleeve is a free agent from the developmental squad named Sanjay Beach. Wesley Walls and Jamie Williams provide the blocking and backup help at tight end.

Craig's replacement is second-year man Dexter Carter, who probably can't take the beating. So second-round pick Ricky Waters is squarely in the picture along with Keith Henderson off injured reserve. A darkhorse candidate: seventh-rounder Sheldon Canley of San Jose State. The 49ers saw a lot of him in college and think he has the frame at 5-10, 195 to be an every-down back. Fullback Harry Sydney ran as well as any of them last season and will back up Rathman if he doesn't challenge for Craig's job. The 49ers even re-signed Doug DuBose, hoping the Craig-Rathman Nebraska connection will continue. The 49ers finished 18th in rushing in '90, an unacceptably low rating for any phase of their game.



JOHN TAYLOR

The offensive line will remain the same provided Bubba Paris gets into shape. That's a big order, but Bubba's future depends on a renewed commitment to lose weight. If he won't, Plan B pickup Roy Foster of Miami could replace him at left tackle. Or right guard Harris Barton could move back to right tackle, allowing Steve Wallace to replace Paris and Foster to play right guard. Jesse Sapolu is the center and Guy McIntyre is at left guard. Two draftees, Harry Boatwain of New Haven and Scott Bowles of North Texas, will compete with Ricky Siglar, Frank Pollack, Chuck Thomas, Wayne Radloff, and Dean Caliguire for reserve spots on the roster.

The 49ers have a way of finding pass rushers, but the selection of Louisville's Ted Washington in the first round was surprising. He will play inside in a four-man line unless he can cram his 6-4 frame into the nose-tackle position. Pierce Holt and Kevin Fagan are the starters flanking Michael Carter, with Dennis Brown, Jim Burt, and Larry Roberts reserves.

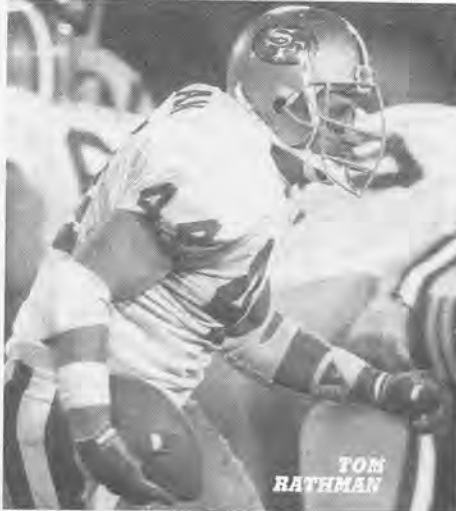
Millen's departure via Plan B to Washington leaves one inside linebacking job to Mike Walter, back from injury. Keith DeLong is coming into his own at the other inside spot and the 49ers drafted another Millen type to challenge. He's fourth-rounder Mitch Donahue, a down lineman at Wyoming. Leroy Etienne is another inside reserve.

Outside, the 49ers boast Charles Haley and Bill Romanowski, as good a pair as there is in the league. Haley led the club in sacks with 16 and Romanowski led in tackles. To replace the reliable Turner, the 49ers think they have discovered a similar athlete in Clemson's John Johnson, a second-rounder. His 6-3, 225 size didn't keep him from running sprints for the Tigers' track team.

The 49ers signed seven Plan B players on defense, indicative of the changes Seifert is prepared to make. What disturbs some fans is that three of them are from the Cardinals. Linebackers Jeroy Robinson and ex-49er Chris Washington figure as outside security. Darrin Jordan from the Raiders is another reserve on the outside. The 49ers think enough of Robinson to look for a spot inside and outside.

The third ex-Cardinal is cornerback Stanley Blair, who joins a crowd. Don Griffin and Darryl Pollard are the starters. Fifth-round draft choice Merton Hanks of Iowa and ex-Oiler Steve Brown will try to edge out Eric Davis and Kevin Lewis as backups. Davis was a second-rounder last year and Lewis a free agent. Lott's spot at free safety goes to David Waymer, the 33-year-old who filled in admirably for Lott much of last year. The strong safety is Johnny Jackson, with Greg Cox, Washington's Todd Bowles, and the Giants' Dave Whitmore backing up.

Mike Cofer is the place-kicker and the 49ers drafted no competition for punter Barry Helton, who averaged only 30.9 net yards. Waters returns punts, which could give Taylor a well-deserved rest. Carter will continue to return kickoffs. Canley does that, too.



TOM RATHMAN

FORTY-NINERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
79	Barton, Harris	T	6-4	280	27	North Carolina
86	Beach, Sanjay	WR	6-1	190	25	Colorado St.
13	Bono, Steve	QB	6-4	215	29	UCLA
22	Bowles, Todd	S	6-2	205	28	Temple
31	Brooks, Chet	S	5-11	191	25	Texas A&M
96	Brown, Dennis	DE	6-4	290	24	Washington
32	Brown, Steve	CB	6-0	187	31	Oregon
64	Burt, Jim	NT	6-1	270	32	Miami
52	Caliguire, Dean	C	6-2	282	24	Pittsburgh
35	Carter, Dexter	RB	5-9	170	24	Florida State
95	Carter, Michael	NT	6-2	285	31	SMU
6	Cofer, Mike	K	6-1	160	27	N.C. St.
38	Cox, Greg	LB	6-0	217	26	San Jose St.
25	Davis, Eric	CB	5-11	178	23	Jacksonville St.
59	DeLong, Keith	LB	6-2	235	24	Tennessee
22	DuBose, Doug	RB	6-0	205	27	Nebraska
50	Etienne, LeRoy	LB	6-2	245	25	Nebraska
75	Fagan, Kevin	DE	6-3	260	28	Miami
67	Foster, Roy	G	6-4	290	31	Southern Cal
98	Goss, Antonio	LB	6-4	228	25	North Carolina
38	Gray, James	RB	5-11	205	24	Texas Tech
63	Grayson, Dan	LB	6-3	245	24	Washington St.
29	Griffin, Don	CB	6-0	176	27	Middle Tenn. St.
94	Haley, Charles	LB-DE	6-5	230	27	James Madison
56	Harrison, Martin	LB-DE	6-5	240	24	Washington
60	Harvey, Stacey	LB	6-3	250	26	Arizona State
9	Helton, Barry	P	6-3	205	26	Colorado
30	Henderson, Keith	FB	6-1	220	25	Georgia
78	Holt, Pierce	DE	6-4	280	29	Angelo St.
90	Ingram, Darryl	TE	6-3	240	25	California
40	Jackson, Johnny	S	6-1	204	24	Houston
65	Joelston, Greg	DE	6-3	270	25	Arizona State
84	Jones, Brent	TE	6-4	230	28	Santa Clara
90	Jordan, Darrin	LB	6-2	245	27	Northeastern
45	Lewis, Kevin	CB	5-11	173	25	NW La.
83	Lewis, Ronald	WR	5-11	173	23	Florida State
62	McIntyre, Guy	DE	6-3	265	30	Georgia
71	Mitz, Alonzo	DE	6-4	278	28	Florida
16	Montana, Joe	QB	6-2	195	35	Notre Dame
69	Neville, Tom	G	6-5	238	30	Fresno State
77	Paris, "Bubba" Wm	T	6-6	299	31	Michigan
28	Plummer, Bruce	S	6-0	198	27	Mississippi St.
72	Pollack, Frank	OL	6-5	285	24	N. Arizona
26	Pollard, Darryl	CB	5-11	187	27	Weber St.
48	Proctor, Basil	LB-DB	6-3	235	25	West Virginia
55	Radloff, Wayne	C	6-5	277	30	Georgia
44	Rathman, Tom	FB	6-1	232	29	Nebraska
36	Rawls, Alford	RB	5-10	205	25	Kentucky
80	Rice, Jerry	WR	6-2	200	29	Miss. Valley St.
91	Roberts, Larry	DE	6-3	275	28	Alabama
57	Robinson, Jeroy	LB	6-2	245	23	Texas A&M
53	Romanowski, Bill	LB	6-4	231	25	Boston College
97	Rosson, Mike	DE	6-6	270	24	Tulsa
61	Sapolu, Jesse	OL	6-4	260	30	Hawaii
88	Sherrard, Mike	WR	6-2	187	28	UCLA
63	Siglar, Ricky	OL	6-7	296	25	San Jose St.
72	Smith, Sean	DE	6-4	272	26	Grambling
68	Smith, Tony	G	6-3	285	24	California
24	Sydney, Harry	FB	6-0	217	32	Kansas
82	Taylor, John	WR	6-1	185	29	Delaware St.
60	Thomas, Chuck	OL	6-3	280	31	Oklahoma
23	Tillman, Spencer	RB	5-11	206	27	Oklahoma
28	Walker, Adam	RB	6-1	210	23	Pittsburgh
74	Wallace, Steve	T	6-5	276	27	Auburn
89	Walls, Wesley	TE	6-5	246	25	Mississippi
99	Walter, Michael	LB	6-3	238	31	Oregon
51	Washington, Chris	LB	6-4	240	29	Iowa State
43	Waymer, Dave	S	6-1	188	33	Notre Dame
93	Wells, Kent	NT	6-4	295	24	Nebraska
41	Whitmore, David	S	6-0	235	24	S.F. Austin
51	Wiese, Brett	OL	6-4	285	25	Washington
81	Williams, Jamie	TE	6-4	245	31	Nebraska
74	Young, Mitchell	DE	6-5	290	28	Arkansas St.
8	Young, Steve	QB	6-2	200	30	BYU

DRAFTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Washington, Ted	DT	6-4	303	Louisville
2	Walters, Ricky	RB	6-1	212	Notre Dame
2	Johnson, John	LB	6-3	225	Clemson
4	Donahue, Mitch	LB	6-2	254	Wyoming
5	Hanks, Merton	DB	6-2	178	Iowa
5	Boatswain, Harry	T	6-4	235	New Haven
6	Bowles, Scott	T	6-5	280	North Texas
7	Canley, Sheldon	RB	5-10	195	San Jose St.
8	Hargain, Tony	WR	6-0	195	Oregon
9	Riddick, Louis	DB	6-2	215	Pittsburgh
10	Holbrook, Byron	DL	6-5	269	Alabama
11	Slaughter, Bobby	WR	5-11	172	Louisiana Tech
12	Confer, Cliff	DE	6-3	263	Michigan State



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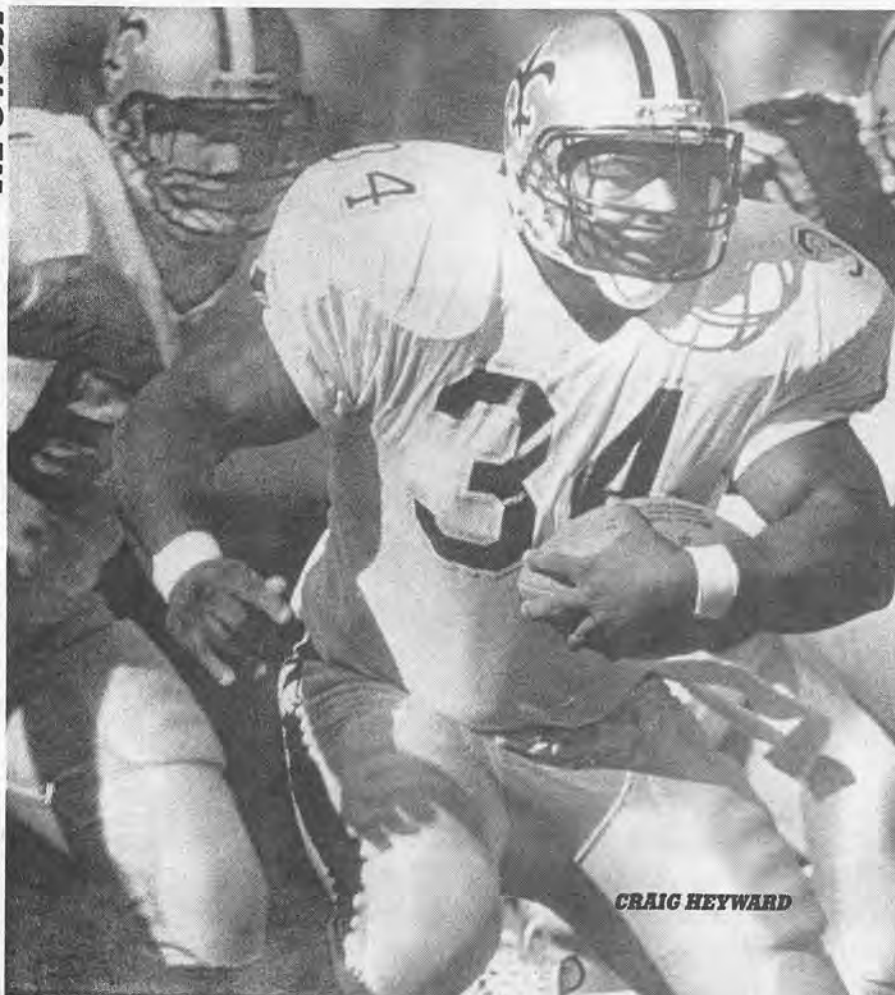
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CRAIG HEYWARD

SAINTS 1990 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Andersen, 92 points on 29 extra points and 21 field goals... 8th
 RUSHING—Heyward, 599 yards on 129 carries, 4.6 avg., 4 TDs... 14th
 PASSING—Walsh, 179 of 336 attempts for 2,010 yards and 12 TDs... 13th
 RECEIVING—Martin, 63 receptions for 912 yards, 14.5 average, 5 TDs... 10th
 INTERCEPTIONS—Maxie, 2 for 88 yards, 44.0 average, 1 TD... 17th
 PUNTING—Barnhardt, 70 punts, 42.7 average, longest 65 yards... 4th
 PUNT RETURNS—Buck, 37 for 305 yards, 8.2 average... 7th
 KICKOFF RETURNS—Fenerty, 28 for 572 yards, 20.4 average... 8th
 SACKS—Swilling, 11.0 sacks... T5th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	3	MINNESOTA (N)
	10	GREEN BAY (N)
	17	At Indianapolis (N)
	23	At Miami (N)

1991 SCHEDULE		1990 SCORES
September	1 SEATTLE	—
	8 At Kansas City	—
	15 LOS ANGELES RAMS (N)	20-17
	22 MINNESOTA	3-32
	29 At Atlanta	27-28
October	6 OPEN DATE	—
	13 At Philadelphia	—
	20 TAMPA BAY	35-7
	27 CHICAGO	—
November	3 At Los Angeles Rams	24-20
	10 SAN FRANCISCO	12-13
	17 At San Diego	—
	24 ATLANTA (N)	10-7
December	1 At San Francisco	13-10
	8 At Dallas	13-17
	16 LOS ANGELES RAIDERS (N)	—
	22 At Phoenix	28-7

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

For years, the Saints had a good quarterback in Archie Manning and couldn't put a team around him. Now, they have a good team and keep looking around for a quarterback. But they might have finally found Bobby Hebert again. When they couldn't sign the reluctant Hebert last year, they had to spend their 1991 draft to trade for Steve Walsh. He started 11 games, but the Saints struggled to an 8-8 record. They made the playoffs on a pass by Walsh, but what they will remember most about the season is the constant struggle.

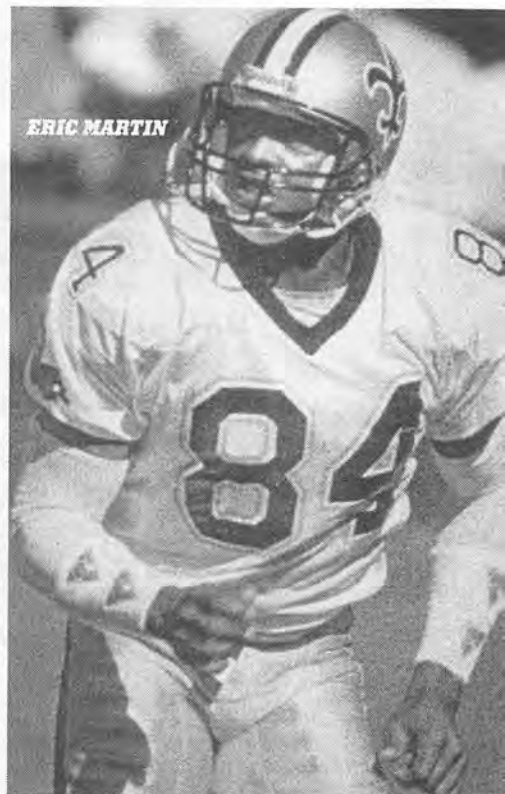
Walsh struggled because he had to take over a new system stone cold, without the benefit of training camp. Fittingly, the pass he threw that got the Saints into the wild-card round against the Bears was a play Walsh brought with him from Dallas.

"The quarterback position is an extremely important position, probably more important than people give it credit for," coach Jim Mora said after the season. Usually, coaches are more inclined toward clichés when it comes to

quarterbacks, such as: "Quarterbacks get more credit than they deserve when they win and more blame than they deserve when they lose." For Mora, the uncertainty at the most vital position was frustrating. His team is good, but not as good as the Giants, who overcame a loss at quarterback and won a Super Bowl with one who was starting just his seventh game. "We're not good enough everywhere else to overcome a lack of production at that position," Mora said.

So Walsh will enter the preseason as the No. 1 man and Hebert will be in the thick of competition, provided he ends his bitter one-year hiatus. It's difficult to imagine any other scenario for Hebert since no trade was consummated during the draft.

"But nobody talks about Mike Buck," Mora complains. "Mike Buck is a heck of a young prospect. When people talk about the future of the Saints at quarterback, I don't hear his name mentioned. He's going to compete for the job." Buck was a sixth-rounder out of Maine last year who impressed coaches in practices but didn't get a chance behind John Fourcade and Walsh.



ERIC MARTIN

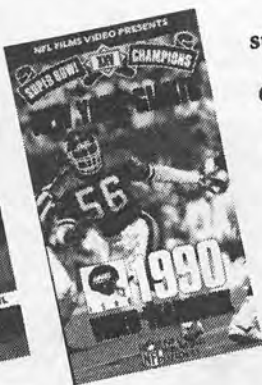
The struggle for the Saints didn't begin and end at quarterback. Mora was "very disappointed" with the production of his wide receivers, so the Saints used what resources they had to address that shortcoming in the offseason. They drafted Miami's Wesley Carroll in the second round and signed San Diego's Quinn Early and Minnesota's Pat Newman in the Plan B market in hopes of lighting a fire under Brett Perriman or Floyd Turner. Eric Martin remains the No. 1 target. His 63 catches for 912 yards led the club for the fourth year in a row. Not a burner, Martin would benefit if someone would assert himself on the opposite side. Turner averaged 18.9 yards on 21 catches. He is the favorite in a wide-open competition.

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Tight end is solidly manned by Hoby Brenner, John Tice, and Greg Scales, a trio that provides everything an offense needs from the position except deep speed.

Running back is another area of concern with Dalton Hilliard coming off the same posterior cruciate knee injury that slowed Roger Craig. Hilliard played in the playoff game and Mora calls him "maybe the best offensive player we've got." But just in case, the Saints appear ready to shift fullback Craig Heyward to tailback, where he played in college. Adding Tim Manoa from Cleveland's Plan B list gives them a blocker who might complement Heyward, who led the club with 599 yards rushing. The problem with moving Heyward is twofold: his weight fluctuates, affecting his production, and he is one of the great blockers in the league, a skill the offense would lose. If neither Hilliard nor Rueben Mayes can regain previous form, Gill Fenerty could be Heyward's main competition at half-

back. Buford Jordan and Bobby Morse compete with sixth-rounder Fred McAfee of little Mississippi College for backup.

The offensive line is solid, experienced, durable, and thin. Tackles Kevin Haverdink and Stan Brock, guards Jim Dombrowski and Steve Trapilo, and center Joel Hilgenberg all are coming off good years. Richard Cooper, Brad Leggett, Plan B addition Brent Griffith of Buffalo, and seventh-rounder Hayward Haynes of Florida State are the only reserves.

On defense, the Saints might consider using more 4-3 alignments because they finally have as many linemen as linebackers. The play of rookie Renaldo Turnbull as a pass rusher was encouraging. He led the down linemen with nine sacks, but Mora said the Bears "hammered" him on the run in the playoff loss. He is not the classic 3-4 end, so the Saints might have to adjust to compensate.

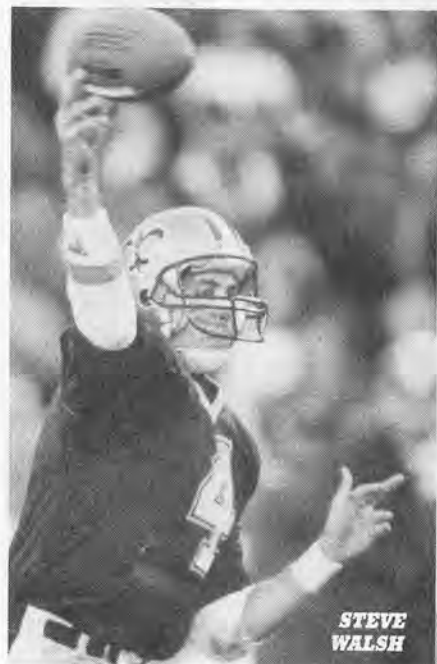
The return of Wayne Martin from a broken leg will enable end Jim Wilks to return to nose tackle, where Robert "Pig" Goff filled in. Thin Joel Smeenge and bulky Michael Simmons, plus San Diego Plan B pickup Les Miller provide more options. If Frank Warren gets the green light to return after a year's suspension for substance abuse, Mora will be tempted to use four linemen. "If Frank comes back, it's a plus. We missed him last year," Mora said.

Few teams can boast of the quality at linebacker the Saints have. No team ever has had four starters who have participated in at least two Pro Bowls apiece. Rickey Jackson had six sacks, 68 tackles, seven fumble recoveries, and four forced fumbles. Pat Swilling led the club with 11 sacks. Vaughan Johnson is a load inside playing next to steady Sam Mills. Johnson would be the logical starter in a 4-3 look, but it's foolish to sell the 5-9 Mills short. The Saints like their backups: Brian Forde, DeMond Winston, and James Wilson.

In the secondary, second-year cornerback Vince Buck appears ready to challenge for a starting job. If he pushes out Toi Cook opposite Robert Massey, Cook might move inside, where strong safety Brett Maxie and free safe-

ty Gene Atkins are better than adequate. The Saints like to convert cornerbacks to safety. "The guy who would have the best chance to be a real good safety is Vince Buck," Mora said. "But we need all the help we can get at corner." Fifth-round draft choice Reggie Jones of Memphis State joins Ernest Spears and special-teams standout Bennie Thompson as reserves.

Tommy Barnhardt was fifth in the league in net punting average. Place-kicker Morten Andersen had 21 field goals in 27 attempts, including 11 of 16 from at least 40 yards. Vince Buck and Fenerty return punts and kickoffs, although nearly all of the Saints' draft choices have kick-return experience.



STEVE WALSH



PAT SWILLING

SAINTS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
86	Alphin, Gerald	WR	6-3	220	27	Kansas State
7	Andersen, Morten	K	6-2	221	31	Michigan State
28	Atkins, Gene	FS	6-1	200	27	Florida A&M
6	Barnhardt, Tommy	P	6-2	207	28	North Carolina
85	Brenner, Hoby	TE	6-5	245	32	Southern Cal
67	Brock, Stan	T	6-6	278	33	Colorado
59	Brockman, Lonnie	LB	6-3	230	23	West Virginia
16	Buck, Mike	QB	6-3	227	24	Maine
26	Buck, Vince	CB	6-0	198	23	Central St.
98	Cole, Leon	DE	6-4	285	26	Texas A&M
41	Cook, Toi	CB	5-11	188	27	Stanford
71	Cooper, Richard	T	6-5	290	27	Tennessee
72	Dombrowski, Jim	OL	6-5	298	28	Virginia
89	Early, Quinn	WR	6-0	190	26	Iowa
22	Fenerty, Gill	RB	6-0	205	28	Holy Cross
52	Forde, Brian	LB	6-3	225	28	Washington St.
11	Fourcade, John	QB	6-1	215	31	Mississippi
91	Goff, Robert	NT	6-3	270	26	Auburn
66	Griffith, Brent	T	6-6	300	26	Mn.-Duluth
74	Haverdink, Kevin	T	6-5	285	26	W. Michigan
34	Heyward, Craig	FB	5-11	260	25	Pittsburgh
61	Hilgenberg, Joel	OL	6-2	252	29	Iowa
87	Hill, Lonzell	WR	5-11	189	26	Washington
21	Hilliard, Dalton	RB	5-8	204	27	LSU
57	Jackson, Rickey	LB	6-2	243	33	Pittsburgh
53	Johnson, Vaughan	LB	6-3	235	29	N.C. State
23	Jordan, Buford	FB	6-0	223	29	McNeese State
60	Korte, Steve	C	6-2	271	31	Arkansas
62	Leggett, Brad	C	6-4	270	25	Southern Cal
24	Mack, Milton	CB	5-11	182	28	Alcorn St.
42	Manoa, Tim	FB	6-1	245	27	Penn St.
84	Martin, Eric	WR	6-1	207	30	LSU
93	Martin, Wayne	DE	6-5	275	26	Arkansas
40	Massey, Robert	CB	5-10	182	24	N.C. Central
39	Maxie, Brett	SS	6-2	194	29	Texas Southern
36	Mayes, Rueben	RB	5-11	200	28	Washington St.
69	Miller, Les	NT	6-7	293	26	Fl. Hays St.
51	Mills, Sam	LB	5-9	225	32	Montclair State
35	Morse, Bobby	FB	5-10	213	26	Michigan St.
15	Newman, Pat	WR	5-11	189	23	Utah St.
38	Nicholson, Calvin	CB	5-9	183	24	Oregon St.
80	Perriman, Brett	WR	5-9	180	26	Miami
70	Port, Chris	T	6-5	290	24	Duke
83	Scales, Greg	TE	6-4	253	25	Wake Forest
	Sign, Bobby	OL	6-2	285	25	Baylor
17	Simien, Kerry	WR	5-10	185	25	Texas A&I
96	Simmons, Michael	DE	6-4	269	26	Mississippi St.
99	Smeenge, Joel	DE	6-5	250	23	W. Michigan
33	Spears, Ernest	FS	5-11	192	24	Southern Cal
56	Swilling, Pat	LB	6-3	242	27	Georgia Tech
37	Thompson, Bennie	SS	6-0	200	28	Grambling
82	Tice, John	TE	6-5	249	31	Maryland
65	Trapilo, Steve	G	6-5	281	27	Boston College
97	Turnbull, Renaldo	DE	6-4	248	25	West Virginia
88	Turner, Floyd	WR	5-11	188	25	NW La.
4	Walsh, Steve	QB	6-2	200	25	Miami
50	Wheeler, Todd	C	6-4	269	24	Georgia
94	Wilks, Jim	DE	6-5	275	33	San Diego St.
90	Williams, James	LB	6-0	230	23	Mississippi St.
92	Winston, DeMond	LB	6-2	239	23	Vanderbilt

DRAFTTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
2	Carroll, Wesley	WR	6-0	176	Miami
5	Jones, Reggie	DB	6-1	200	Memphis State
6	McAfee, Fred	RB	5-10	193	Mississippi College
7	Haynes, Hayward	G	6-2	285	Florida State
8	Wainright, Frank	TE	6-3	240	Northern Colorado
9	Wallace, Anthony	RB	6-0	191	California
11	Ross, Scott	LB	6-1	235	Southern Cal
12	Drabczak, Mark	G	6-4	273	Minnesota

ATLANTA FALCONS

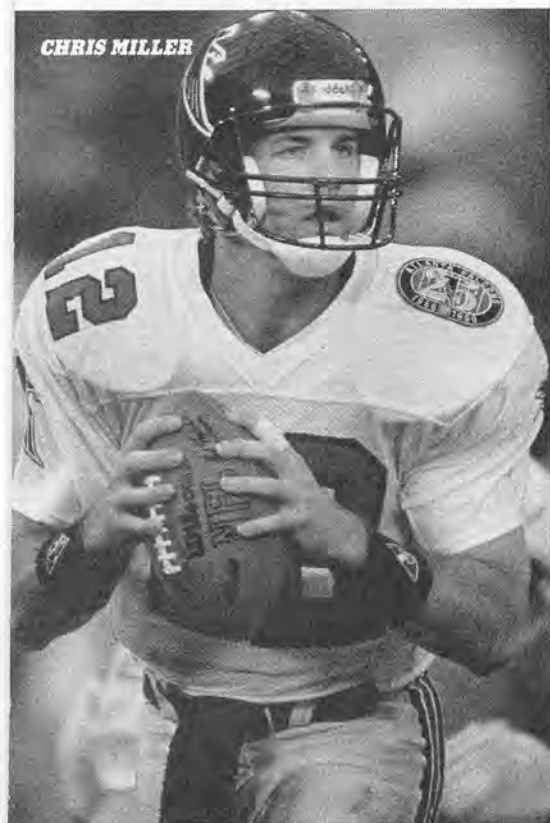
The Falcons are engaged in a great experiment. They want to determine exactly how many No. 1 draft choices they can squeeze onto one roster before the victories start outnumbering the losses. After the last draft, the Falcons counted 16 No. 1 picks on board, more than any other team. They had so many they were considering getting rid of some.

Everywhere they looked, there were somebody's No. 1 draft picks: three wide receivers, three offensive linemen, two running backs, a quarterback, three defensive linemen, a linebacker, and three defensive backs. What more could coach Jerry Glanville want? Somebody to play lead guitar? "There aren't many changes that need to be made," Glanville conceded.

He made that assessment after the Falcons finished with a 5-11 record, a pass defense that was 28th in the league, a running game that was 21st, and a quarterback with a steel plate in his collarbone. Yet the Falcons think they are ready to move on up against the 49ers. The only thing that could stall this group is the league's renewed crackdown on taunting and exhibitionism.

Quarterback Chris Miller is one of nine No. 1 draft choices on the offense. If he's not healthy, the other eight won't matter much.

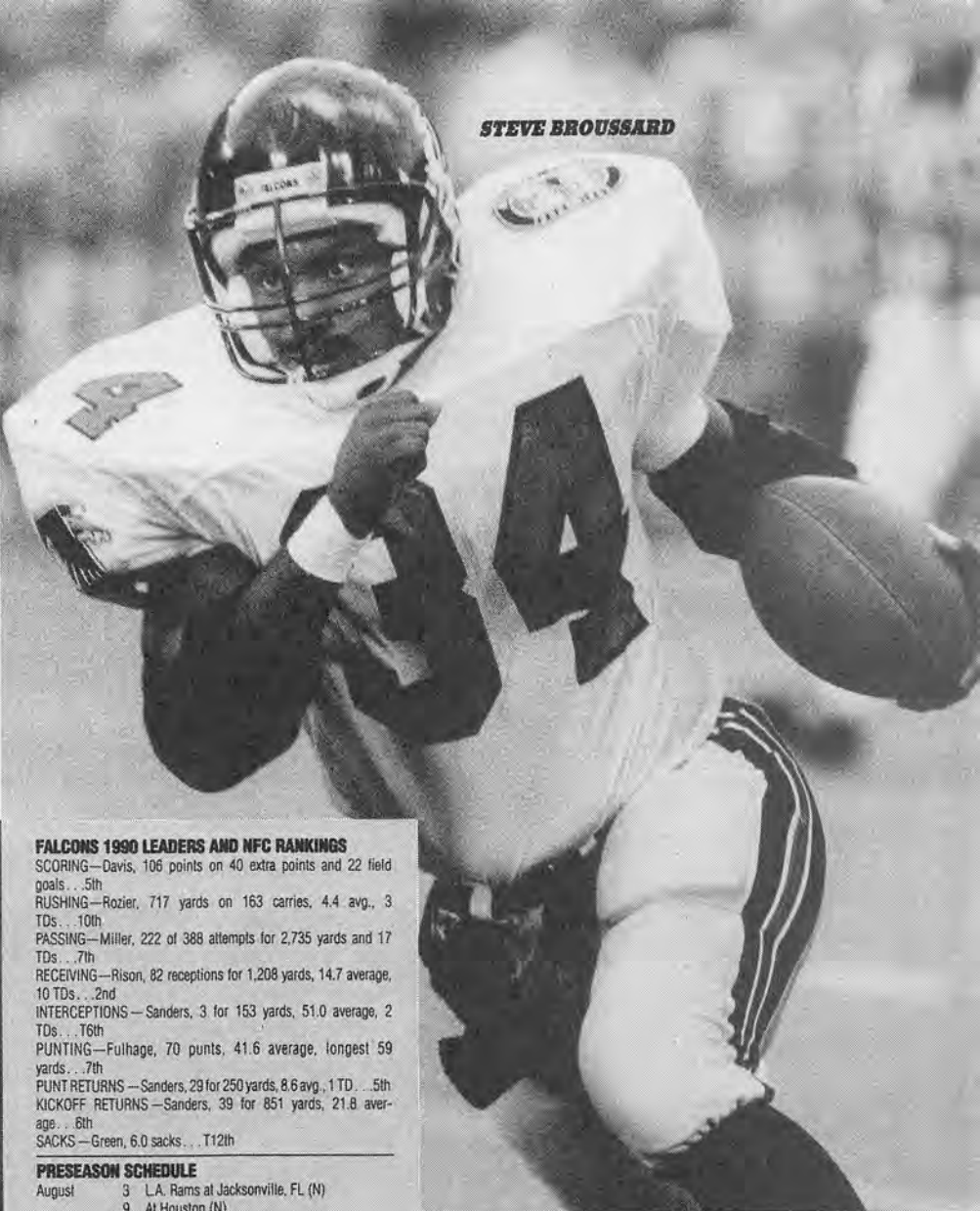
CHRIS MILLER



Miller is coming off a broken collarbone that wouldn't be a big deal for anyone who doesn't make a living throwing a ball. There were no complications and Miller was throwing in the spring mini-camps, but coaches are keeping fingers crossed. Miller was spending more time than ever before in the weight room, providing the Falcons with extra reason to be optimistic. They think it's time for Miller to justify the kind of confidence the club had when it traded away the rights to Jeff George.

STREET AND SMITH'S PRO FOOTBALL

STEVE BROUSSARD



FALCONS 1990 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Davis, 106 points on 40 extra points and 22 field goals... 5th
RUSHING—Rozier, 717 yards on 163 carries, 4.4 avg., 3 TDs... 10th
PASSING—Miller, 222 of 388 attempts for 2,735 yards and 17 TDs... 7th
RECEIVING—Rison, 82 receptions for 1,208 yards, 14.7 average, 10 TDs... 2nd
INTERCEPTIONS—Sanders, 3 for 153 yards, 51.0 average, 2 TDs... 16th
PUNTING—Fulhage, 70 punts, 41.6 average, longest 59 yards... 7th
PUNT RETURNS—Sanders, 29 for 250 yards, 8.6 avg., 1 TD... 5th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Sanders, 39 for 851 yards, 21.8 average... 6th
SACKS—Green, 6.0 sacks... 112th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 3 L.A. Rams at Jacksonville, FL (N)
9 At Houston (N)
17 TAMPA BAY (N)
23 At Dallas (N)

1991 SCHEDULE

		1990 SCORES
September	1 At Kansas City.....	—
	8 MINNESOTA.....	—
	15 At San Diego.....	—
	22 LOS ANGELES RAIDERS.....	—
	29 NEW ORLEANS.....	28-27
October	6 OPEN DATE.....	—
	13 SAN FRANCISCO.....	35-45
	20 At Phoenix.....	13-24
	27 LOS ANGELES RAMS.....	20-13
November	3 At San Francisco.....	13-19
	10 At Washington.....	—
	17 TAMPA BAY.....	17-23
	24 At New Orleans (N).....	7-10
December	1 GREEN BAY.....	—
	8 At Los Angeles Rams.....	24-44
	15 SEATTLE.....	—
	22 At Dallas.....	26-7

With offensive coach June Jones pried away from Detroit to tutor Miller in the nuances of the Red Gun attack, Atlanta's version of the run-and-shoot, the Falcons hope to improve on their 10th-ranked offense and sixth-ranked passing game. Miller is backed up by Gilbert Renfro and second-round draft choice Brett Favre of Southern Mississippi, whom the Falcons were ready to take in the first round had they believed it necessary.

With their second pick in the first round,

they added Colorado receiver Mike Pritchard, favorably compared to Rocket Ismail by everybody except Notre Dame fans. Pritchard and Pro Bowl receiver Andre Rison will be the inside targets in the four-receiver set, with Michael Haynes and George Thomas slated for the outside spots. Thomas caught only 18 passes last year, but his average of 21.3 yards opened eyes. That leaves a No. 1 pick, Shawn Collins, on the bubble with Floyd Dixon, but the Falcons like to collect receivers. Rison set a team record with 82 catches, second to Jerry Rice's 100 for the 49ers. Rison scored 10 touchdowns and will have to alter his end zone rituals considerably if he is to avoid flags under the new stringent interpretation of spontaneous celebration.

With No. 1 running backs Mike Rozier and Steve Broussard competing for Glanville's favor and fullbacks Keith Jones and Tracy Johnson both capable, the Falcons have not limited themselves to a pure Red Gun philosophy. In a two-back set at the end of the season, Rozier gained over 100 yards twice. Broussard must learn to avoid or ignore the nagging injuries that limited him to four carries a game over the last half of the year and landed him in Glanville's doghouse.

Tackles Mike Kenn and Chris Hinton are No. 1s and Pro Bowl talents who flank guards Houston Hoover and Bill Fralic, another No. 1. Jamie Dukes is the center and John Scully, Mike Ruether, and Reggie Redding are the backups. Kenn seems to be getting better with age (35) and few are better than Hinton when he is challenged by the best.

Gary Wilkins is the blocking tight end when the offense calls for it. What the Falcons need to do, however, is make their offensive philosophy clear to the players expected to carry it out. Last year, the scheme seemed to shift, resulting in more confusion than production.

The defense boasts only seven No. 1 draft choices, but personnel chief Ken Herock played fair, giving coordinator Doug Shively the first draft choice this spring, which went for cornerback Bruce Pickens of Nebraska. Pickens joins No. 1s Deion Sanders and Bobby Butler at the position but is not required to beat out the newly acquired Tim McKyer for the starting spot opposite Sanders.

Since the Falcons finished dead last in pass defense, the secondary can't be solely to blame. Neither can the departed cornerback Charles Dimry. The front seven employs four No. 1 draft choices—Tim Green, Rick Bryan, Aundray Bruce, and Tony Casillas—and only

Green was starting by the end of the year. He enjoyed his best season playing end opposite Mike Gann, who also played as well as ever. Last year's eighth-rounder, Tory Epps, was the nose tackle ahead of Casillas. Epps played as well as any rookie defensive lineman. Bryan rushes in the four-man set and the Falcons are high on last year's third-rounder, Oliver Barnett. Moe Gardner of Illinois, taken in the fourth round this year, could also become a factor at nose tackle.

Last year's second-round selection, Darion Conner, looks like a budding superstar at right outside linebacker. He had 22 quarterback hurries, which often provided the same result as a sack. Inside backer Jessie Tuggle led the NFL in tackles (with 201 total) on a defense that jumped from last in the league against the run to third. Robert Lyles played ahead of Bruce at left linebacker and both John Rade and Michael Reid are coming off knee injuries to claim the other inside spot. Fifth-rounder James Goode of Oklahoma and backup Ken Tippins provide depth.

McKyer is supposed to complement Sanders with man-to-man coverage that will allow the Falcons to be more effective with their Grits Blitz. Brian Jordan could be challenged at strong safety by Jeff Donaldson, a Plan B pickup from Kansas City. Scott Case is the free safety and Philadelphia Plan B signee Tracey Eaton is in reserve.

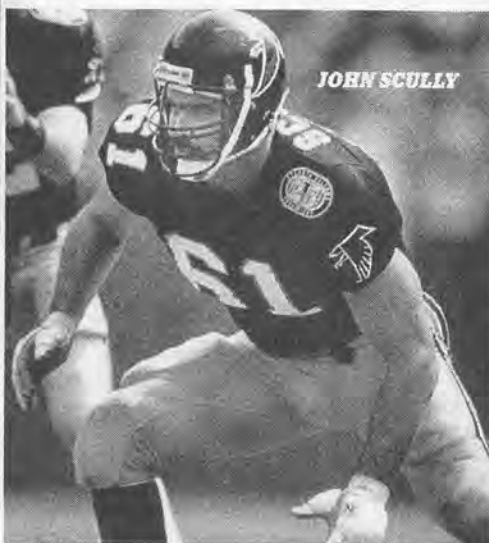
The Falcons are an emotional team. They gave up only 35 points all season in the first

quarter, when the adrenaline is flowing. But they were outscored in every other quarter, including 143-74 in the second.

Glanville takes special pride in special teams. The Falcons were the only club to return both a punt (Sanders) and kickoff (Jones) for touchdowns. They blocked nine kicks. After place-kicker Greg Davis got away to Phoenix on Plan B, the Falcons signed Rich Karlis, who starred for the Vikings two years ago before losing his job in a salary dispute. Scott Fulhage is the punter.



MIKE PRITCHARD



JOHN SCULLY



BILL FRALIC



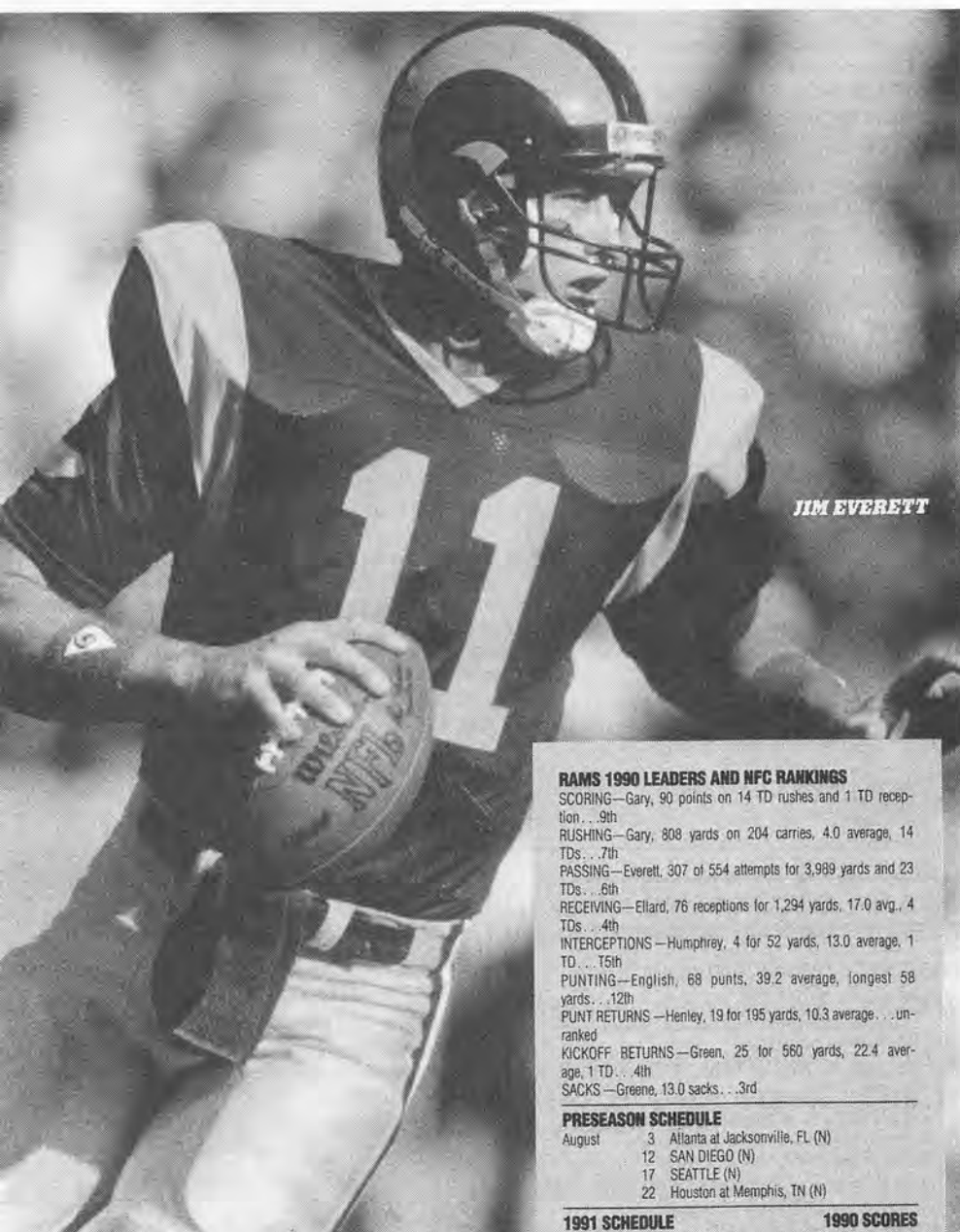
MIKE ROZIER

FALCONS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
72	Barnett, Oliver	DT	6-3	288	25	Kentucky
65	Bingham, Guy	C	6-3	280	33	Montana
63	Brinkley, Lester	DE	6-8	255	26	Mississippi
34	Broussard, Steve	RB	5-7	201	24	Washington St.
93	Bruce, Aundray	LB	6-5	248	25	Auburn
77	Bryan, Rick	DE	6-4	265	29	Oklahoma
23	Butler, Bobby	CB	5-11	175	32	Florida State
10	Campbell, Scott	QB	6-0	195	29	Purdue
20	Carey, Richard	CB	5-9	185	23	Idaho
25	Case, Scott	S	6-1	188	29	Oklahoma
75	Casillas, Tony	NT	6-3	280	28	Oklahoma
28	Chatfield, Pat	FB	6-1	218	24	Oregon State
85	Collins, Shawn	WR	6-2	207	24	N. Arizona
56	Conner, Darion	LB	6-2	256	24	Jackson State
86	Dixon, Floyd	WR	5-9	170	27	S.F. Austin
42	Donaldson, Jeff	S	6-0	188	29	Colorado
64	Dukes, Jamie	C	6-1	285	27	Florida State
32	Eaton, Tracey	S	6-1	195	26	Portland State
74	Epps, Tory	NT	6-0	280	24	Memphis State
29	Fishback, Joe	S	5-11	198	24	Carson-Newman
79	Fralic, Bill	G	6-5	280	29	Pittsburgh
17	Fulhage, Scott	P	5-10	193	30	Kansas State
76	Gann, Mike	DE	6-5	270	28	Notre Dame
99	Green, Tim	DE	6-2	245	28	Syracuse
81	Haynes, Michael	WR	6-0	180	26	N. Arizona
71	Hinton, Chris	T	6-4	300	30	Northwestern
69	Hoover, Houston	G	6-2	290	26	Jackson State
68	Hunter, John	T	6-8	296	26	BYU
84	Jackson, Pat	WR	5-8	165	23	S.F. Austin
43	Johnson, Tracy	RB	6-0	230	25	Clemson
38	Jones, Keith	RB	6-1	210	25	Illinois
40	Jordan, Brian	S	5-11	202	24	Richmond
3	Karlis, Rich	K	6-0	180	32	Cincinnati
78	Kenn, Mike	T	6-7	277	35	Michigan
88	La Bel, Harper	TE	6-4	245	28	Colorado St.
54	Lyles, Robert	LB	6-1	230	30	TCU
	McKyer, Tim	CB	6-10	174	27	Texas Arlington
96	Miles, Eddie	LB	6-1	233	23	Minnesota
12	Miller, Chris	QB	6-2	205	26	Oregon
97	Phillips, Jason	WR	5-7	168	25	Houston
24	Pringle, Mike	RB	5-9	186	24	Cal Fullerton
51	Pritchett, Wes	LB	6-4	234	25	Notre Dame
59	Rade, John	LB	6-1	240	31	Boise State
70	Redding, Reggie	T	6-3	281	23	Cal Fullerton
95	Reid, Michael	LB	6-2	235	27	Wisconsin
14	Rentroe, Gilbert	QB	6-1	195	28	Tennessee St.
80	Rison, Andre	WR	6-0	191	24	Michigan State
92	Roland, Benji	DL	6-3	260	24	Auburn
30	Rozier, Mike	RB	5-10	213	30	Nebraska
55	Ruether, Mike	C	6-4	275	29	Texas
21	Sanders, Deion	DB	6-0	187	24	Florida State
61	Scully, John	G	6-6	270	33	Notre Dame
37	Shelley, Elbert	S	5-11	180	27	Arkansas St.
89	Thomas, George	WR	5-9	169	27	UNLV
52	Tippins, Ken	LB	6-1	230	25	Mid. Tenn. St.
58	Tuggle, Jessie	LB	5-11	230	26	Valdosta State
87	Wilkins, Gary	TE	6-2	235	28	Georgia Tech
90	Williams, Mike	WR	5-10	177	25	Northwestern
22	Worthen, Naz	WR	5-8	177	25	N.C. State

DRAFTTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Pickens, Bruce	CB	5-9½	193	Nebraska
1	Pritchard, Mike	WR	5-9½	185	Colorado
2	Favre, Brett	QB	6-2	217	Southern Miss
4	Gardner, Moe	NT	6-2	254	Illinois
5	Goode, James	LB	6-2	245	Oklahoma
6	Pegram, Eric	RB	5-10	185	North Texas
7	Mitchell, Brian	DB	5-10	165	Brigham Young
7	Tucker, Mark	G	6-2	280	Southern Cal
8	Austin, Randy	TE	6-2	245	UCLA
9	Logan, Ernie	DE	6-3	271	East Carolina
10	Sutton, Walter	WR	5-10	170	SW MN State
10	Lucas, Peter	OT	6-3	320	Wis.-Stevens Point
11	Sims, Joe	NT	6-4	294	Nebraska
12	Christian, Robert	RB	5-10	215	Northwestern



JIM EVERETT

RAMS 1990 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Gary, 90 points on 14 TD rushes and 1 TD reception... 9th
RUSHING—Gary, 808 yards on 204 carries, 4.0 average, 14 TDs... 7th
PASSING—Everett, 307 of 554 attempts for 3,989 yards and 23 TDs... 6th
RECEIVING—Ellard, 76 receptions for 1,294 yards, 17.0 avg., 4 TDs... 4th
INTERCEPTIONS—Humphrey, 4 for 52 yards, 13.0 average, 1 TD... 15th
PUNTING—English, 68 punts, 39.2 average, longest 58 yards... 12th
PUNT RETURNS—Henley, 19 for 195 yards, 10.3 average... unranked
KICKOFF RETURNS—Green, 25 for 560 yards, 22.4 average, 1 TD... 4th
SACKS—Greene, 13.0 sacks... 3rd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 3 Atlanta at Jacksonville, FL (N)
 12 SAN DIEGO (N)
 17 SEATTLE (N)
 22 Houston at Memphis, TN (N)

1991 SCHEDULE

September 1 PHOENIX.....
 8 At New York Giants..... 7-31
 15 At New Orleans (N)..... 17-20
 22 At San Francisco..... 28-17
 29 GREEN BAY..... 24-36
 October 6 OPEN DATE.....
 13 SAN DIEGO.....
 20 At Los Angeles Raiders.....
 27 At Atlanta..... 13-20
 November 3 NEW ORLEANS..... 20-24
 10 KANSAS CITY.....
 17 At Detroit.....
 25 SAN FRANCISCO (N)..... 10-26
 December 1 WASHINGTON.....
 8 ATLANTA..... 44-24
 15 At Minnesota.....
 22 At Seattle (N).....

1990 SCORES

RAMS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
83	Anderson, Willie	WR	6-0	175	26	UCLA
	Anthony, Convin	TE	6-3	235	23	UCLA
82	Bailey, Stacey	WR	6-1	163	31	San Jose St.
42	Berry, Latin	CB	5-10	196	24	Oregon
57	Bethune, George	LB	6-4	240	24	Alabama
61	Brostek, Bern	OL	6-3	300	25	Washington
59	Butcher, Paul	LB	6-0	230	28	Wayne State
98	Carr, Derrick	DE	6-6	270	24	Bowling Green
88	Carter, Pat	TE	6-3	255	25	Florida State
84	Cox, Aaron	WR	5-10	178	26	Arizona State
72	Cox, Robert	T	6-5	285	28	UCLA
81	Delaney, Jarrod	WR	6-5	196	25	TCU
39	Delpino, Robert	FB	6-0	205	26	Missouri
22	Dupree, Marcus	RB	6-2	225	27	Southern Miss
80	Ellard, Henry	WR	5-11	182	30	Fresno State
29	Emanuel, Aaron	RB	6-2	235	24	Southern Cal
8	English, Keith	P	6-3	220	25	Colorado
11	Everett, Jim	QB	6-5	212	28	Purdue
89	Faison, Derrick	WR	6-4	200	24	Howard
51	Faryniarz, Brett	LB	6-3	232	26	San Diego St.
43	Gary, Cleveland	RB	6-0	226	25	Miami
79	Goldberg, Bill	DT	6-3	266	25	Georgia
25	Gray, Jerry	CB	6-0	185	29	Texas
91	Greene, Kevin	LB	6-3	247	29	Auburn
68	Grudt, Darren	G	6-5	330	24	Texas A&M
5	Hatcher, Dale	P	6-2	220	28	Clemson
70	Hawkins, Bill	DT	6-6	266	25	Miami
20	Henley, Darryl	CB	5-9	172	25	UCLA
31	Jackson, Alfred	CB	6-0	180	24	San Diego St.
17	James, Danny	WR	5-10	175	26	Morehouse
86	Johnson, Damone	TE	6-4	250	29	Cal Poly SLO
52	Kelm, Larry	LB	6-4	240	27	Texas A&M
38	Lang, David	RB	5-11	201	24	N. Arizona
27	Lilly, Sammy	CB	5-9	178	26	Georgia Tech
63	Lindsey, Michael	LB	6-2	243	25	Southern
16	Long, Chuck	QB	6-4	221	28	Iowa
67	Love, Duval	G	6-3	287	28	UCLA
24	McGee, Buford	FB	6-0	210	31	Mississippi
82	McKinnon, David	G	6-5	280	24	Long Beach St.
71	Millinchik, Joe	G	6-5	275	28	N.C. State
66	Newberry, Tom	OL	6-2	285	29	Wis-LaCrosse
26	Newman, Anthony	S	6-0	199	26	Oregon
	Perry, Gerald	G	6-6	305	27	Southern U.
75	Pankay, Irv	T	6-5	292	33	Penn State
95	Piel, Mike	DT	6-4	270	26	Illinois
87	Price, Jim	TE	6-4	247	25	Stanford
93	Reed, Doug	DT	6-3	265	31	San Diego St.
97	Robinson, Gerald	DE	6-3	252	28	Auburn
12	San Jose, Bobby	QB	6-1	188	24	Long Beach St.
55	Sanders, Glenell	LB	6-0	224	25	Louisiana Tech
33	Slack, Ron	RB	5-10	208	25	San Diego St.
78	Slater, Jackie	T	6-4	287	37	Jackson State
96	Smith, Brian	DT	6-6	268	25	Auburn
56	Smith, Doug	C	6-3	275	35	Bowling Green
50	Stams, Frank	LB	6-2	240	26	Notre Dame
23	Stewart, Michael	S	6-0	199	26	Fresno State
53	Strickland, Fred	LB	6-2	250	25	Purdue
	Talupu, Mosi	FB	6-0	227	36	Southern Cal
37	Terrell, Pat	S	6-0	195	23	Notre Dame
94	Thomas, Ben	DE	6-3	275	30	Auburn
21	Thomas, Rodney	CB	5-10	190	26	BYU
63	Tucker, Peter	G	6-4	280	23	Occidental
54	Wilcher, Mike	LB	6-3	245	31	North Carolina
77	Wilson, Karl	DE	6-4	275	27	LSU
99	Wright, Alvin	NT	6-2	285	30	Jacksonville St.
10	Zendejas, Tony	K	5-8	165	31	Nevada-Reno

DRAFTIES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Lyght, Todd	CB	6-0	186	Notre Dame
2	Phifer, Roman	LB	6-2	227	UCLA
4	Bailey, Robert	DB	5-10	176	Miami
5	Young, Robert	DL	6-7	265	Mississippi St.
6	Fort, Neal	T	6-6	280	BYU
7	Shelton, Tyrone	RB	5-11	215	William & Mary
8	Tyrance, Pat	LB	6-2	242	Nebraska
9	Fields, Jeff	DT	6-2	272	Arkansas State
11	Crews, Terry	LB	6-2	240	W. Michigan
12	Pahukoa, Jeff	T	6-3	290	Washington
12	Thompson, Ernie	RB	6-0	238	Indiana

LOS ANGELES RAMS

If the Rams were one step away from the Super Bowl last year, it was a Giant step. Because they came closest to unseating the 49ers two years ago, the Rams were nominated as most likely to succeed. Instead, they turned the so-called experts into a disillusioned group most likely to jump over a cliff.

The bottom of a cliff is where to look for the Rams. Their fall from the NFC title game to 5-11 was so precipitous it ended careers and splattered question marks everywhere. Coach John Robinson survived with renewed authority and confidence from owner Georgia Frontiere, but he fired defensive coordinator Fritz Shurmur and most of a defensive staff that finished 27th against the pass. Truth be told, it represented an improvement over the previous year, when the Rams finished dead last in pass defense. Then, Shurmur was being hailed as a genius. But he couldn't foresee injuries that knocked out the cornerbacks and linebackers vital to his scheme.

Injuries aside, the 1989 performance was a mirage. The Rams were left with virtually no one to play defensive line last year. Now, Robinson has hired Jeff Fisher from the Eagles to install the Buddy Ryan defense that requires first and foremost the pass rushers the Rams don't have. The philosophy is to put as much pressure on the quarterback as necessary to get the job done. When it works, it's awesome.

When it doesn't, it shifts the pressure to the defense's own cornerbacks.

Enter Todd Lyght. The Rams couldn't get a big pass rusher with the fifth pick in the draft, so they took the best cornerback. Notre Dame's Lyght will earn his money in a hurry in Fisher's defense.

Meanwhile, back on offense, Robinson must figure out a way to instill some of his old-fashioned run philosophy into coordinator Ernie Zampese high-powered pass offense. The Rams were third in the league in passing but 20th in running. If you can't run, you can't play defense. Robinson has the advantage of quarterback Jim Everett, statistically one of the league's best. But with defenses able to tee off on Everett because of weak running and a defense that gives up nearly 26 points a game, Everett is getting cold feet. He does

stay healthy, however. Backup Chuck Long threw only five passes last year.

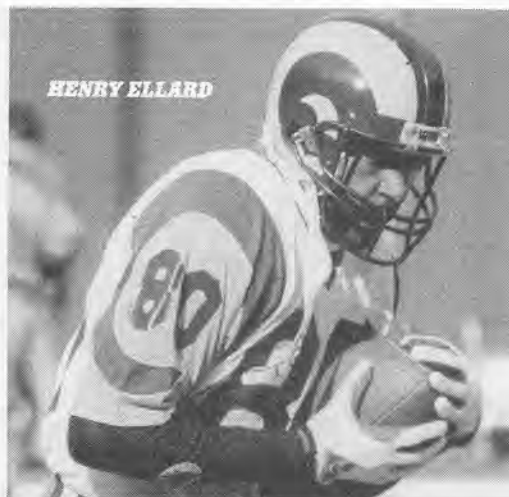
Everett's receivers are among the best in football. If Henry Ellard didn't play in the same division with Jerry Rice, he would be a household word. His 1,294 yards were second in the league to Rice's 1,502. His 76 receptions were fourth. Willie Anderson also surpassed the 1,000-yard mark and his 21.5-yard average on 51 receptions was high in the league for anyone with more than 20 catches. If Aaron Cox cannot stay healthy, second-year free agent Derrick Faison will get a look as the third receiver. Free-agent pickup Stacey Bailey from Atlanta also is a possibility. The Rams lost sure-handed H-back Pete Holohan to Plan B. He caught 49 passes, so the roles of tight ends Damone Johnson and Pat Carter and the emergence of developmental H-back



TODD LYGHT



JOHN ROBINSON



HENRY ELLARD

Jim Price are important.

Most troublesome to Robinson on his offense is the workhorse runner. Cleveland Gary was outstanding at times, but his 12 fumbles led the league's running backs and even surpassed some quarterbacks. Since no team can live with that, look for Robinson to give comeback player Marcus Dupree a long look in hopes he can somehow recapture his college and USFL brilliance. If he does, he will be a welcome addition. Buford McGee and Robert Delpino are good pass-catching fullbacks, but neither is the workhorse type. Plan B signee Mosi Tatupu will add bulk.

Mel Kiper, Jr. **ESPN'S NFL COLLEGE/PRO ANALYST**

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The Rams will line up again with 37-year-old Jackie Slater and 33-year-old Irv Pankey at the tackles and dare anybody to find a better pair. For sure, there isn't an older pair, so the Rams drafted Neal Fort of BYU on the sixth round and traded for troubled Denver starter Gerald Perry. Robert Cox is a backup tackle with experience. Bern Brostek played well enough at guard as a rookie for the Rams to shift Pro Bowl guard Tom Newberry to center, replacing Doug Smith. Duval Love is the right guard and Joe Milinichik is a key reserve.

In the new defensive alignment, linebacker Kevin Greene will become the right end. He's

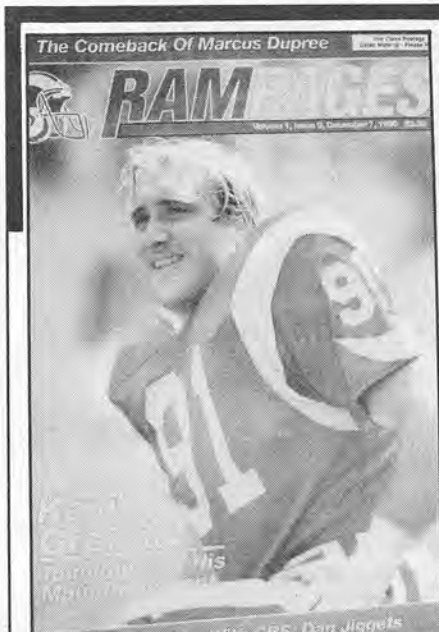
not very big, but nobody has ever been able to figure out exactly what makes him one of the league's most successful pass rushers. He led the club with 13 sacks again last year after a slow start and also forced four fumbles. Fisher will find a spot for him. Mike Piel and wide Alvin Wright are the tackles, with high hopes for Bill Hawkins at the other end. The team's 1989 first-round draft choice has been hampered by injury, but still has promise. Plan B pickups Gerald Robinson of San Diego and Karl Wilson of Miami also figure at the end positions and fifth-rounder Robert Young of Mississippi State has a great opportunity to

show what he can do. Brian Smith, a 1989 second-rounder, also is welcome to make his presence felt.

At middle linebacker the Rams must decide between Frank Stams and Larry Kelm, with Chicago Plan B pickup Glenell Sanders third on the depth chart. Former inside backer Fred Strickland, whose career has been dotted with injury, has been moved outside to compete with Mike Wilcher and Brett Faryniarz on the left side. The right side is reserved for second-round draft choice Roman Phifer of UCLA, who has the speed to cover and the quickness to disrupt offenses. George Bethune and Paul Butcher are backups.

Lyght figures to start on the right side opposite Jerry Gray, unless Darryl Henley decides he would rather not give up his spot to a rookie. If that happens, no one will be happier than Fisher, who can use all the cover cornerbacks he can find. The Rams used a fourth-round pick to take another one, Miami's Robert Bailey, so they don't expect miracles from Lyght. Former running back Latin Berry is still making the transition to cornerback and Plan B additions Sammy Lilly of San Diego and Rodney Thomas of Miami could compete. Anthony Newman looks like the free safety and Pat Terrell, last year's second-round pick, the strong safety. Michael Stewart will provide competition.

Keith English is the punter and the Rams re-signed free agent Dale Hatcher. Tony Zendejas was acquired on Plan B to replace Mike Lansford as the place-kicker. Henley returns punts, Delpino and Berry kickoffs.



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EAST

1. Buffalo Bills
 2. Miami Dolphins
 3. Indianapolis Colts
 4. New York Jets
 5. New England Patriots
- Wild Card Teams: Miami Dolphins, Cincinnati Bengals

CENTRAL

1. Houston Oilers
2. Cincinnati Bengals
3. Pittsburgh Steelers
4. Cleveland Browns

WEST

1. Kansas City Chiefs
2. Los Angeles Raiders
3. Denver Broncos
4. Seattle Seahawks
5. San Diego Chargers

AFC Champion: Buffalo Bills

The measure was about two feet. Twenty-four inches and the AFC would have begun to reclaim some of its honor. That's how far Scott Norwood's 47-yard field-goal attempt needed to hook in order for the Buffalo Bills to defeat the New York Giants in Super Bowl XXV. The kick didn't hook and now the NFC's Super streak is at seven.

RESURGENCE OF THE AFC

The times, they are a-changin', however. Or at least it appears so. The AFC's top four winners, Buffalo, the Los Angeles Raiders, the Kansas City Chiefs, and the Miami Dolphins had an aggregate 12-4 record against the NFC last year. Champion Buffalo was 3-1, with the sole loss to Washington in a meaningless game in which the Bills used their reserves. Kansas City was 4-0. Respectability may be just around the corner of the end zone.

Until Norwood's kick refused to hook, there had been a strong argument that Buffalo was the NFL's best. For now, the question has been rephrased: "Are the Bills the AFC's best?" The answer that follows is: "If not Buffalo, who?" The Bills have won 34 games in the last three seasons. They made a sham of last year's playoffs, beating Miami, 44-34, then humiliating the Raiders, 51-3. They have massive firepower from their no-huddle offense, having scored a league-leading 428 points. Their quarterback Jim Kelly is in his prime. Thurman Thomas may be the best all-round back in the league. Bruce Smith is a dominating pass rusher. They have superb linebacking and competent coverage. It is an impressive package.

It could be that Miami will be able to battle them all season in the AFC East, as the Dolphins did last year. Sammie Smith is developing into a feature back who can complement the passing of Dan Marino. The Dolphins got by with a jerrybuilt defense in 1990. It does not look as if it is improved, especially with cornerback Tim McMyer traded to Atlanta in what appears to have been a punitive deal. In the draft, the Dolphins and Bills played point-counterpoint. Miami drafted speedy receiver Randal Hill of Miami U. The Bills drafted a swift defensive back, Henry Jones of Illinois.

The Raiders, who often imply that they invented pride and poise, imported a great deal of it after the season when they spent a fortune to sign future

Hall of Fame safety Ronnie Lott along with heroic running back Roger Craig off San Francisco's Plan B unprotected list. The big subtraction is Bo Jackson, who may have played his last football in the playoff victory over Cincinnati. Still, the Raiders do not look as strong as their 12-4 record suggests. Jay Schroeder remains an enigma at quarterback and road games remain an adventure.

Kansas City won both meetings with the Raiders by a total of five points and finished one game behind in the West. The Chiefs also won six of their last seven games before blowing a two-touchdown lead in the playoffs against Miami. Maybe the Chiefs just needed to get their beak wet in playoff football. A little maturity may take them a long way in 1991.

The AFC Central is likely to be another hodgepodge. Houston did a great deal of mischief in its breaking-in season with the run-and-shoot attack. If Warren Moon, one of the most valuable players in the NFL, had not been on the sidelines with a broken thumb, who knows how far Houston might have gone in the playoffs?

Cincinnati is still rebuilding its defense on the fly. Pittsburgh finds its offense one week and loses it the next, which is too much of a burden even for the league's top defense.

SAFETY FIRST

With the exception of Kansas City, which plays a sort of geriatric roulette with 37-year-old Steve DeBerg at quarterback, the best AFC teams use some form of "Let 'er Rip!" offense. Marv Levy, the Bills' coach, thinks this is the future of football. He protected only one of his safeties on Buffalo's Plan B list. "The day of the traditional safety may be over," he said. The Bills selected two of the fastest cornerbacks available in the draft in the first three rounds: Jones and Darryl Wren of Pittsburg State. They will be trained as safeties. Six AFC teams used their first draft picks for pass rushers or defensive backs. Three others drafted quarterbacks and a fourth a fast receiver. Levy may be on to something.

The AFC is awash with coaches and players on the spot this year. A sample:

Jeff Cross, Miami defensive end: He was among the premier sackers in the league in the first half of the season, then went south in the second half. The Dolphins need him at his best for the entire schedule.

Bubby Brister, Pittsburgh quarterback: This is his sixth year, which means his experience should be eliminating his inconsistencies.

Icey Woods, Cincinnati running back: The NFL owners voted to ban his shuffle, but he can make Bengal fans dance in the stands if he relocates his rookie success formula.

Bruce Smith, Buffalo pass rusher: As a symbol of the best sackers, Smith will have to wrap up his quarry this season. The "in-the-grasp" rule is passé.

Eric Dickerson, Indianapolis running back: The Colts could make the playoffs if Dickerson doesn't treat football as an individual sport.

Billy Joe Tolliver, San Diego quarterback: A couple of careers—his and coach Dan Hennings—may be on the line when he steps behind the center.

Roger Craig, Raider running back: He's getting paid serious money to give Al Davis what Bo Jackson gave him.

This is a year without radical change in the AFC. There is one new general manager, Sam Jankovich of New England, who is being asked to bring peace to the most besieged of franchises. The two new coaches are from opposite ends of the calendar: 38-year-old Bill Belichick in Cleveland and 60-year-old Dick MacPherson with the Pats. The coaches approach their jobs from the opposite end, too. Belichick is a modern-times technocrat. Mac is a flesh-presser in the mold of Tip O'Neill.

As for individual honors in the AFC in 1991, our fearless forecast:

- **Most Valuable Player, Offense:** Thurman Thomas, Buffalo
- **Most Valuable Player, Defense:** Ronnie Lott, Los Angeles
- **Coach of the Year:** Ron Meyer, Indianapolis
- **Rushing champion:** Blair Thomas, New York
- **Passing champion:** John Elway, Denver
- **Receiving champion:** Andre Reed, Buffalo
- **Offensive Rookie of the Year:** Jeff Graham, Pittsburgh wide receiver
- **Defensive Rookie of the Year:** Mike Dumas, Houston safety

1991 ALL-AFC TEAM

OFFENSE

- WR** Andre Reed, Buffalo
Willie Gault, Los Angeles
TE Eric Green, Pittsburgh
T Richmond Webb, Miami
Anthony Munoz, Cincinnati
G Steve Wisniewski, Los Angeles
Mike Munchak, Houston
C Kent Hull, Buffalo
QB Dan Marino, Miami
RB Thurman Thomas, Buffalo
Blair Thomas, New York
PK Pete Stoyanovich, Miami

DEFENSE

- E** Bruce Smith, Buffalo
Ray Childress, Houston
NT Dan Saleaumua, Kansas City
T Michael Dean Perry, Cleveland
OLB Derrick Thomas, Kansas City
Cornelius Bennett, Buffalo
ILB John Offerdahl, Miami
Shane Conlan, Buffalo
CB Rod Woodson, Pittsburgh
Albert Lewis, Kansas City
Carnell Lake, Pittsburgh
SS Ronnie Lott, Los Angeles
FS Rohn Stark, Indianapolis
P

by **LARRY FELSER** BUFFALO NEWS

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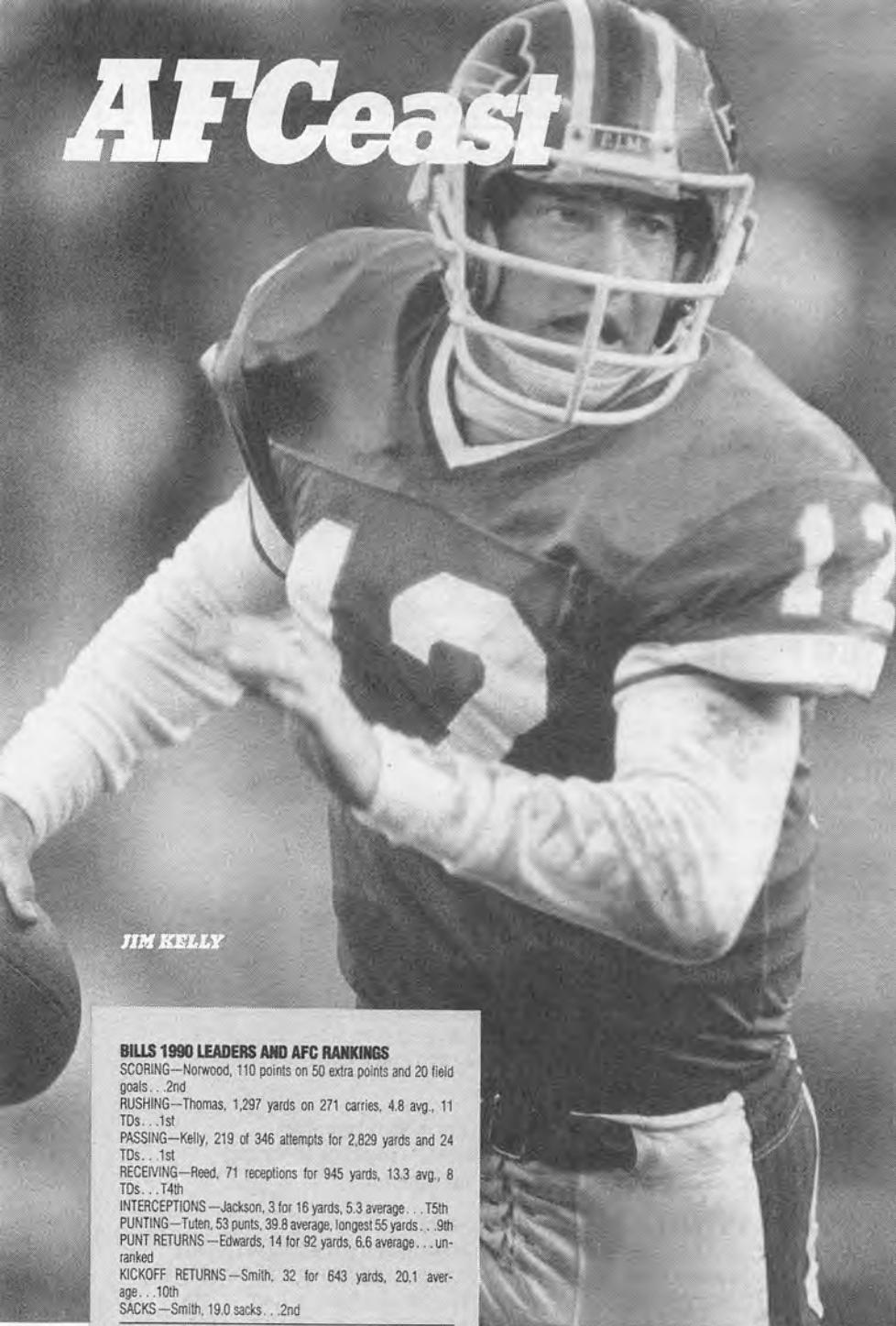
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AFC East



JIM KELLY

BILLS 1990 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Norwood, 110 points on 50 extra points and 20 field goals...2nd
 RUSHING—Thomas, 1,297 yards on 271 carries, 4.8 avg., 11 TDs...1st
 PASSING—Kelly, 219 of 346 attempts for 2,829 yards and 24 TDs...1st
 RECEIVING—Reed, 71 receptions for 945 yards, 13.3 avg., 8 TDs...14th
 INTERCEPTIONS—Jackson, 3 for 16 yards, 5.3 average...15th
 PUNTING—Tuten, 53 punts, 39.8 average, longest 55 yards...9th
 PUNT RETURNS—Edwards, 14 for 92 yards, 6.6 average...un-ranked
 KICKOFF RETURNS—Smith, 32 for 643 yards, 20.1 average...10th
 SACKS—Smith, 19.0 sacks...2nd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July 28 Philadelphia at London, England
 August 5 At N.Y. Giants (N)
 10 DETROIT (N)
 17 Green Bay at Madison, WI
 24 At Chicago (N)

1991 SCHEDULE

September	1	MIAMI	24-14
	8	PITTSBURGH	—
	15	At New York Jets	30-7
	22	At Tampa Bay	—
	29	CHICAGO	—
October	7	At Kansas City (N)	—
	13	INDIANAPOLIS	26-10
	21	CINCINNATI (N)	—
	27	OPEN DATE	—
November	3	NEW ENGLAND	14-0
	10	Green Bay at Milwaukee	—
	18	At Miami (N)	7-30
	24	At New England	27-10
December	1	NEW YORK JETS	30-27
	8	At Los Angeles Raiders	38-24
	15	At Indianapolis (N)	31-7
	22	DETROIT	—

BUFFALO BILLS

After three consecutive division championships, 37 victories in the last three years, and their first appearance in the Super Bowl, the Bills have designs on becoming the team of the '90s. They have a chance.

The Bills possess a lot of just about everything. In Jim Kelly they have one of the NFL's premier quarterbacks. They are rich in receivers. Thurman Thomas may be the best all-round running back in the game. Their offensive line became a major asset in 1990. Led by Bruce Smith, the defensive player of last year, they assault opposing quarterbacks. They play superbly on special teams. Not only that, but they are realistic about the things they don't do especially well. "We don't have a defense that dominates," admits coach Marv Levy. "We want to build one."

The Bills are now synonymous with quick-strike, big-production offense with their no-huddle attack. Ask the Los Angeles Raiders. The Raiders came into Buffalo confident they would win the AFC championship last January. They left in a dazed and humiliated state. Buffalo hammered them, 51-3, in a game that could have been far worse had the Bills not elected to call off the attack.

The offense revolves almost equally around Kelly and Thomas, two of the most valuable players in the NFL. Kelly's numbers were not particularly startling. His 2,829 yards were the second-lowest of his NFL career. He threw for 24 touchdowns, but he had 25 the year before when Buffalo was eliminated in the first round of the playoffs. Yet 1990 was the season Kelly moved into the elite class of quarterbacks. The main reason was that he reached maturity on the field and off it. He was intercepted only nine times, by far the lowest number of his career. He made better decisions and, calling his own plays almost all the time in the no-huddle, had a more comfortable command of his team. Kelly missed the last two games of the regular season and most of the previous game because of a knee injury. Yet he returned in the playoffs with a 339-yard, three-touchdown day against Miami. He was every inch the reckless leader as he took off for an important first down early in the opening quarter, stirring his teammates' adrenaline. At age 31, he is just reaching his peak.



THURMAN THOMAS

Bill Parcells, the ex-New York Giants' coach, had the definitive word on Thomas the day after the Super Bowl: "I knew he was an outstanding back, but until yesterday I didn't know how good. He scares me." Thomas led the NFL in total yards from scrimmage, with 1,829. He combined for at least 100 yards rushing and passing in 10 of 16 regular-season games, plus all three postseason games. He finished with 1,297 rushing yards, plus 532 receiving yards on 49 catches. He scored 13 touchdowns. The Bills had to play without Kelly in a December game against Miami which decided the AFC East championship. On a day they needed Thomas most, he carried 30 times for 154 yards. He's tough, too. After suffering a bone bruise in his leg in the opening minutes of a game against the Jets, he came back the next week with a 136-yard performance against New England.

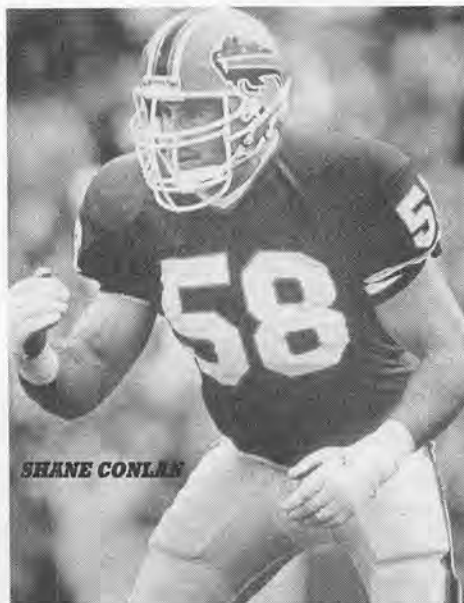
Two years ago, the Bills set about to bulk up their offensive line, to bring it up to the standards of the NFC, then the dominant conference. The development of 300-pound tackles Howard Ballard and Will Wolford, plus the surprise contributions of guard John Davis combined with the steadiness of all-pro center Kent Hull and veteran guard Jim Ritcher brought about success. Glenn Parker was a valuable reserve as a rookie.

Andre Reed is now the Bills' all-time pass catcher after his 71-reception, eight-touchdown season. What made him all the more effective was the resurgence of the 35-year-old James Lofton, who averaged 20.3 yards in his 35 catches, had a 149-yard day against Miami in the playoffs, and torpedoed his ex-Raider teammates in the AFC championship. Kelly calls ex-basketball player Keith McKeller "a wide receiver in a tight end's body." McKeller caught 30 passes for a 13.2-yard average—a wide receiver's number.

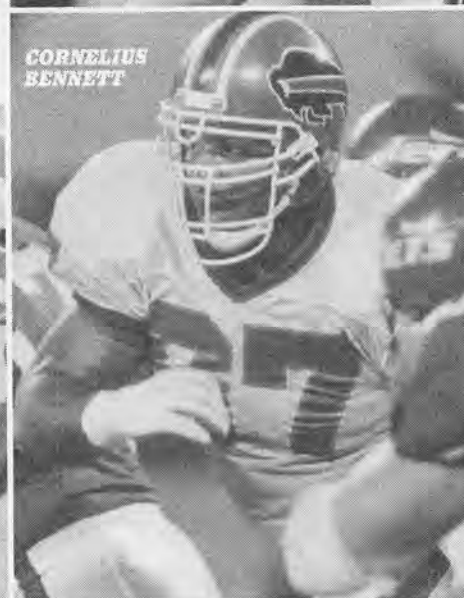
Defensively, the Bills prevail through Bruce Smith, the most dominant player in the AFC, and solid linebacking. Smith had 19 sacks and generally disrupted opposition game plans, since the Bills line him up in a variety of positions, which results in deadly unpredictability. He also stuffs the run. Nose tackle Jeff Wright played better than expected in his first season as the full-time starter. He used his quickness to record five sacks. End Leon Seals is solid, especially against the run. Levy took a risk by signing ex-Lion disappointment Reggie Rogers, who spent last season in jail.

The Bills have three Pro Bowl-quality linebackers: Cornelius Bennett, Shane Conlan, and Darryl Talley. Bennett became the first in the NFL ever to be named player of the week in consecutive weeks after he had outstanding games against the Broncos and the Raiders. He also came up big in the playoffs. Conlan had a strong second half and was outstanding in the postseason. Talley led the team with 123 tackles, including five sacks. Ray Bentley and Carlton Bailey share the inside position alongside Conlan.

The major change in the Bills may be in the secondary, where only Mark Kelso, the free safety, was protected in Plan B. The coaches want more speed at safety, so first-round draft choice Henry Jones, a cornerback at Illinois, will be tried on the strong side. The Bills also plan to use swift Darryl Wren, the third-round pick from Pittsburg State, at both corner and safety. Incumbent strong safety Leonard Smith returns, but he may be spotted in situational roles. The corners are the veterans Nate Odomes and Kirby Jackson, along with speedy James Williams, who started the last four games after Jackson was hurt.



SHANE CONLAN



CORNELIUS BENNETT

Place-kicker Scott Norwood had his worst year as a Bill, finishing with the lowest success rate in the NFL, 20 for 29, followed by his missed kick which would have won the Super Bowl. Punter Rick Tuten will be challenged.

Don Smith, who contributed mightily as a third-down back and kickoff returner, signed with Miami. His loss is offset somewhat by the free-agent signing of ex-Giant receiver Lionel Manuel. Other than the defensive backs, the top rookie is pass rusher Phil Hansen of North Dakota State, the fastest defensive lineman in the draft and also a long snapper.

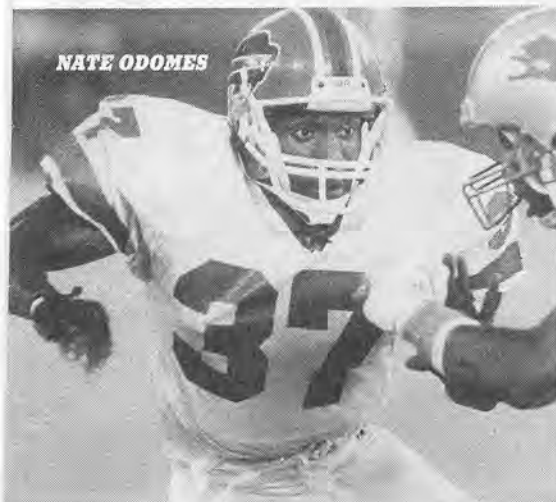
BILLS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
54	Bailey, Carlton	LB	6-2	237	27	North Carolina
92	Baldinger, Gary	NT	6-3	270	28	Wake Forest
75	Ballard, Howard	T	6-6	315	26	Alabama A&M
52	Bavaro, David	LB	6-0	235	24	Syracuse
82	Beebe, Don	WR	5-11	177	27	Chadron St.
97	Bennett, Cornelius	LB	6-2	235	25	Alabama
50	Bentley, Ray	LB	6-2	235	31	C. Michigan
61	Burton, Leonard	C	6-3	277	27	South Carolina
62	Collins, Brent	LB	6-2	235	23	Carson-Newman
58	Conlan, Shane	LB	6-3	235	27	Penn State
65	Davis, John	T	6-4	310	26	Georgia Tech
23	Davis, Kenneth	RB	5-10	209	29	TCU
45	Drane, Dwight	SS	6-2	205	29	Oklahoma
85	Edwards, Al	WR	5-8	168	24	NW La.
59	Ferrote, Mitch	G	6-3	280	26	Penn State
33	Fuller, Eddie	RB	5-9	199	23	LSU
35	Gardner, Carwell	FB	6-2	235	25	Louisville
99	Gardner, Hal	LB	6-4	235	29	Utah State
7	Gilbert, Gale	QB	6-3	210	30	California
81	Glover, Deval	WR	5-11	184	25	Syracuse
93	Haggins, Odell	NT	6-2	278	24	Florida State
26	Hale, Chris	CB	5-7	161	25	Southern Cal
27	Hicks, Clifford	CB	5-10	188	27	Oregon
67	Hull, Kent	C	6-5	275	30	Mississippi St.
47	Jackson, Kirby	CB	5-10	180	26	Mississippi St.
12	Kelly, Jim	QB	6-3	218	31	Miami
38	Kelso, Mark	FS	5-11	185	28	William & Mary
63	Lingner, Adam	C	6-4	288	31	Illinois
73	Lodish, Mike	NT	6-3	260	24	UCLA
80	Lofton, James	WR	6-3	190	35	Stanford
42	Manuel, Lionel	WR	5-11	180	29	Pacific
84	McKeller, Keith	TE	6-4	245	27	Jacksonville St.
88	Metzelaars, Pete	TE	6-7	250	31	Wabash
57	Monger, Matt	LB	6-1	235	30	Oklahoma St.
41	Mueller, Jamie	FB	6-1	230	27	Benedictine
11	Norwood, Scott	K	6-0	207	31	James Madison
37	Odomes, Nate	CB	5-10	188	26	Wisconsin
74	Parker, Glenn	G	6-5	301	25	Arizona
53	Patton, Marcus	LB	6-2	216	24	UCLA
94	Pike, Mark	DE	6-4	272	28	Georgia Tech
29	Pool, David	CB	5-9	188	25	Carson-Newman
83	Reed, Andre	WR	6-1	190	27	Kutztown St.
14	Reich, Frank	QB	6-4	210	30	Maryland
51	Ritcher, Jim	G	6-3	273	33	N.C. State
77	Rogers, Reggie	DE	6-6	280	27	Washington
87	Rolle, Butch	TE	6-4	245	27	Michigan State
96	Seals, Leon	DE	6-5	267	27	Jackson State
25	Smiley, Tim	SS	6-0	190	25	Arkansas State
78	Smith, Bruce	DE	6-4	280	28	Virginia Tech
46	Smith, Leonard	SS	5-11	202	31	McNeese State
79	Staysniak, Joe	T	6-5	295	25	Ohio State
56	Talley, Darryl	LB	6-4	235	31	West Virginia
89	Tasker, Steve	WR	5-9	185	29	Northwestern
34	Thomas, Thurman	RB	5-10	198	25	Oklahoma St.
24	Tucker, Brett	SS	5-11	195	24	N. Illinois
86	Turner, Vernon	WR	5-8	185	24	Carson-Newman
10	Tuten, Rick	P	6-2	218	26	Florida State
31	Williams, James	CB	5-10	172	24	Fresno State
69	Wolford, Will	T	6-5	290	27	Vanderbilt
91	Wright, Jeff	NT	6-2	270	28	Central Mo.
30	Young, Brett	FS	5-10	195	24	Oregon

DRAFTTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Jones, Henry	DB	5-11	197	Illinois
2	Hansen, Phil	DE	6-5	258	North Dakota St.
3	Wren, Darryl	DB	6-0	186	Pittsburg St.
5	Wilbourn, Shawn	DB	6-3	205	Long Beach St.
6	Hamilton, Millard	WR	5-9	172	Clark (GA)
7	Rasul, Amil	RB	5-11	191	Florida A&M
8	Lamb, Brad	WR	5-10	170	Anderson (IN)
9	Maddox, Mark	LB	6-1	220	N. Michigan
10	DeLorenzo, Tony	G	6-3	283	New Mexico St.
11	Kirkland, Dean	G	6-2	295	Washington
12	Clark, Stephen	TE	6-8	244	Texas

NATE ODOMES



AFC East MIAMI DOLPHINS

The Dolphins have gone back to basics. Last season they ran the ball more effectively and stopped opposing running attacks more often. That translated to a 12-4 record, an improvement from 8-8 of 1989. No one mentioned the word "fluke." The Dolphins headed off that possibility by slugging it out with the Kansas City Chiefs in the playoffs, coming back from a 16-3 deficit to win.

The Dolphins still have flaws, but they are respected more than they have been in years. Miami no longer has to bank totally on quarterback Dan Marino. He no longer drops back into the pocket and unleashes a pass on just about every down. The Dolphins built a running game. Only four AFC rushers carried the ball more than Sammie Smith. He finished with 831 yards, averaging 3.7 per rush.

It's necessary to look beyond the final statistics to understand what Smith means to Miami's future. He came up very big in the two playoff games. Against Kansas City's rugged defense, he produced 82 hard-earned yards. It was his determined conversion of a critical fourth-and-two situation in the third quarter that ignited the Dolphins' comeback. In the Buffalo game he ran for 99 yards in snowy conditions. In the two games, he exceeded his season average with four yards per carry. More important, he refuted the notion that he isn't tough enough. No back in the AFC fumbled more than he did, eight times, during the regular season, yet he never dropped the ball in the postseason.

Smith did not do it on his own. Miami rebuilt most of its running game through the draft and Plan B. The first two draft picks were offensive tackle Richmond Webb and guard Keith Sims. They were installed on the left side of the line from Day 1. Dolphin rooters began to see the

reincarnation of the Art Shell-Gene Upshaw combination which anchored the old Raider dynasty. Webb played three times against Buffalo's terror, Bruce Smith, and did not allow a sack. He shut out the league's top sacker, Derrick Thomas of Kansas City. He was even more effective as a run blocker. Webb was voted to the Pro Bowl as a rookie. Almost as important as the coming of Webb and Sims was the signing of plan B fullback Tony Paige, whose blocking and pass catching helped liberate Sammie Smith. Right guard Harry Gal-

breath, right tackle Mark Dennis, and center Jeff Uhlenhake all are solid.

The revitalized running game, which adds the versatile Aaron Craver (third-round draft-ee) of Fresno State, does not mean that Marino's time has passed. The great quarterback turns 30 just after the start of this season. He is in mid-prime. His 21 touchdown passes and 3,563 yards were not vintage Marino numbers and his efficiency rating placed a mere eighth in the NFL. But when the game is on the line, Marino is still special. He decided the Kansas City playoff game with 10 straight completions. He put the Dolphins back into contention against Buffalo with classic touch passes in crucial situations. This is still Marino's team and he is more comfortable with it than he has been for some time. There are no more hints that he would like to be traded, as there were a year ago.

Marino could use another game-breaking receiver, so the Dolphins' No. 1 pick in the draft was the University of Miami's blazing fast Randal Hill. Injuries limited Mark Clayton to just 32 catches, but Mark Duper came up with his best season since 1986, catching 52 passes for 810 yards, five touchdowns, and a 15.6-yard average. Jim Jensen caught 44 passes in a specialty role, but he wasn't as effective as usual. That was one reason Don Smith, who scored Buffalo's first touchdown in the Super Bowl, was signed as a free agent. Smith is also a kick returner and a dangerous short-yardage man, especially around the goal line. Tight end Eric Sievers, who will supplement starter Ferrell Edmunds, came via New England in Plan B.

During the winter, coach Don Shula made a decisive break with the recent past by unloading three former high draft choices: defensive end John Bosa and linebackers Rick Graf and

DOLPHINS 1990 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Slojanovich, 100 points on 37 extra points and 21 field goals... 6th
RUSHING—Smith, 831 yards on 226 carries, 3.7 avg., 8 TDs... 7th
PASSING—Marino, 306 of 531 attempts for 3,563 yards and 21 TDs... 5th
RECEIVING—Duper, 52 receptions for 810 yards, 15.6 avg., 5 TDs... 112th
INTERCEPTIONS—Oliver, 5 for 87 yards, 17.4 average... T3rd
PUNTING—Roby, 72 punts, 42.0 average, longest 62 yards... 4th
PUNT RETURNS—Martin, 26 for 140 yards, 5.4 average... 9th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Logan, 20 for 367 yards, 18.4 average... 12th
SACKS—Cross, 11.5 sacks... T5th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

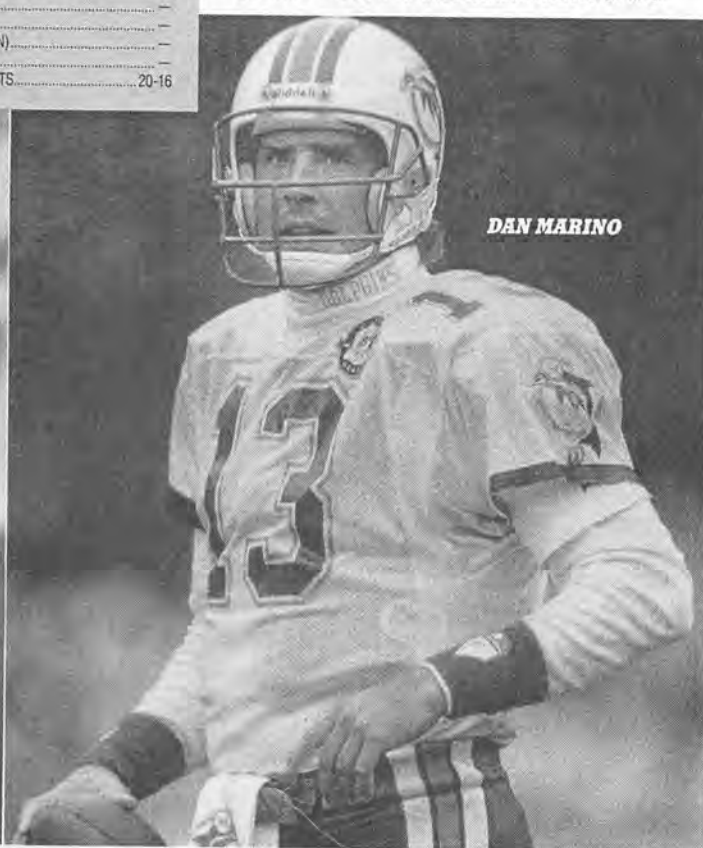
July	27	CHICAGO (N)
August	3	L.A. Raiders at Tokyo, Japan (N)
	10	At Tampa Bay (N)
	19	At Denver (N)
	23	NEW ORLEANS (N)

1991 SCHEDULE

		1990 SCORES
September	1	At Buffalo..... 14-24
	8	INDIANAPOLIS..... 23-17
	15	At Detroit..... —
	22	GREEN BAY..... —
	29	At New York Jets..... 17-3
October	6	At New England..... 27-24
	13	At Kansas City..... —
	20	HOUSTON..... —
	27	OPEN DATE..... —
November	3	At Indianapolis..... 27-7
	10	NEW ENGLAND (N)..... 17-10
	18	BUFFALO (N)..... 30-7
	24	At Chicago..... —
December	1	TAMPA BAY..... —
	9	CINCINNATI (N)..... —
	15	At San Diego..... —
	22	NEW YORK JETS..... 20-16

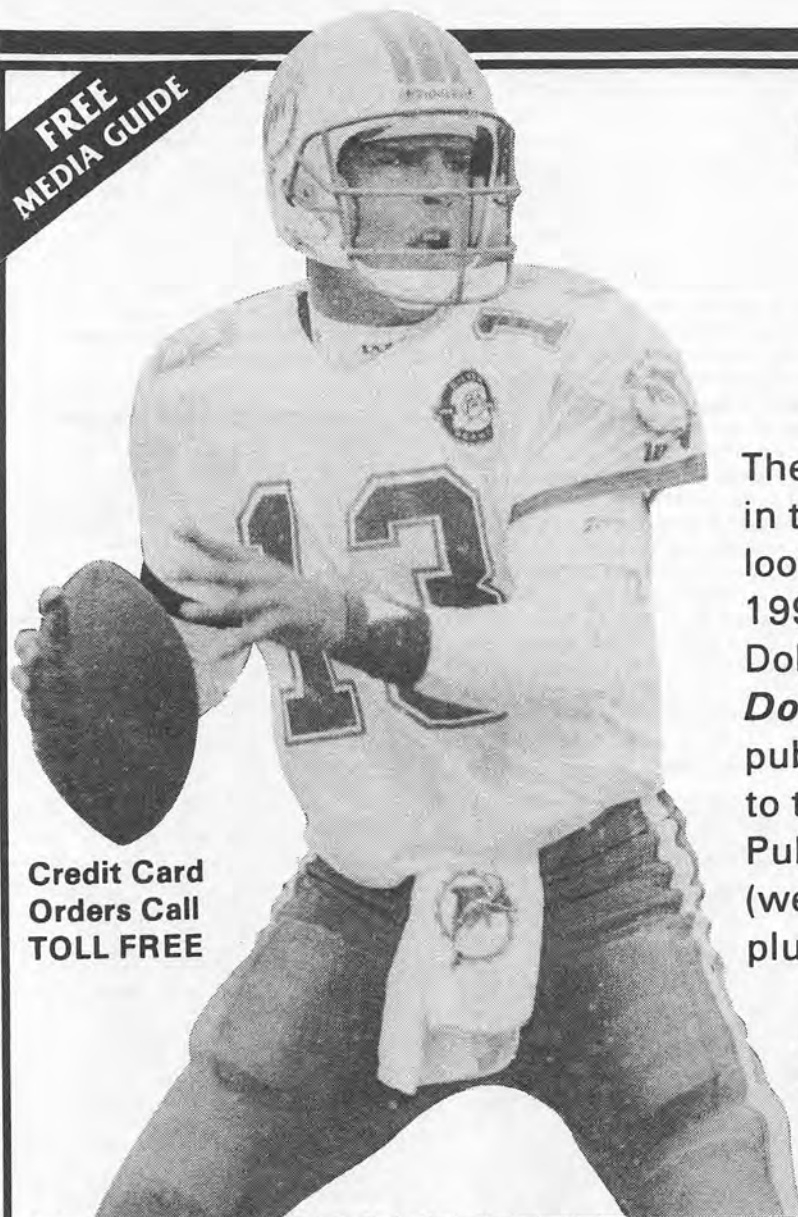


SAMMIE SMITH



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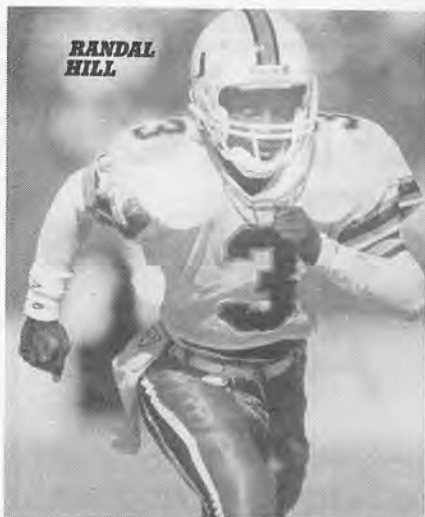
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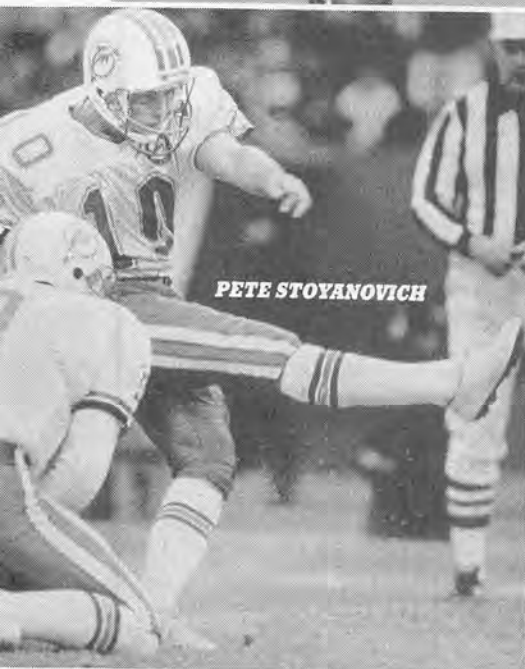
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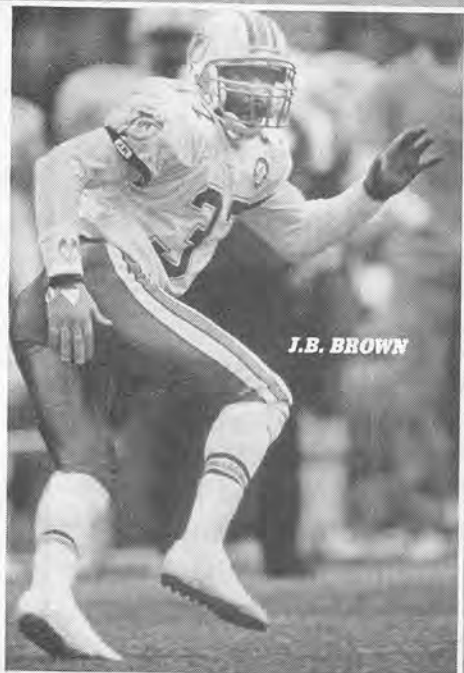
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RANDAL HILL



PETE STOYANOVICH



J.B. BROWN

Eric Kumerow. All three were huge disappointments and a major reason that the Miami defense faltered so much in the late '80s. Defensive end Jeff Cross was one of the most effective players in the NFL for the first half of the season. He had 10 sacks in the first seven games. Then he went into an inexplicable tailspin. He had just 1½ sacks in the final nine regular-season games and just three tackles and no sacks in the playoffs. Miami needs an improved and consistent season from him. Brian Sochia seemed headed for the Pro Bowl as a nose tackle before he was suspended for four games at midseason for steroid use. When he returned he was used at end, where he may stay this year. Shawn Lee played nose tackle in his absence. Alfred Oglesby showed promise as a rookie at both end and nose tackle. T.J. Turner is a journeyman end and Terry Price was picked up from Plan B.

John Offerdahl may be the best inside linebacker in football, but he seems to play so hard he has become susceptible to injuries. He missed the playoff game against the Bills. The Dolphins got a big season from Plan B free agent Cliff Odom at inside backer and outside backer Hugh Green played well in the playoffs, but Odom is 33 and Green 32. Young David Griggs came out of nowhere to contribute as an outside backer. Shula traded for Houston's John Grimsely.



KEITH SIMS



JOHN OFFERDAHL

Cornerback Tim McKyer, like Cross, had a great first half after the Dolphins obtained him from San Francisco in a trade. But he was burned often late in the season, and he antagonized so many of his teammates that he was dealt to Atlanta in the spring. Vestee Jackson, who came from the Bears in a trade for Kumerow, will compete with Kerry Glenn on the left corner. J.B. Brown, the right corner, was more consistent. The strength of the secondary is at safety: Jarvis Williams at free and Louis Oliver on the strong side. Oliver is a liability, however, when opponents match him up against fast wide receivers.

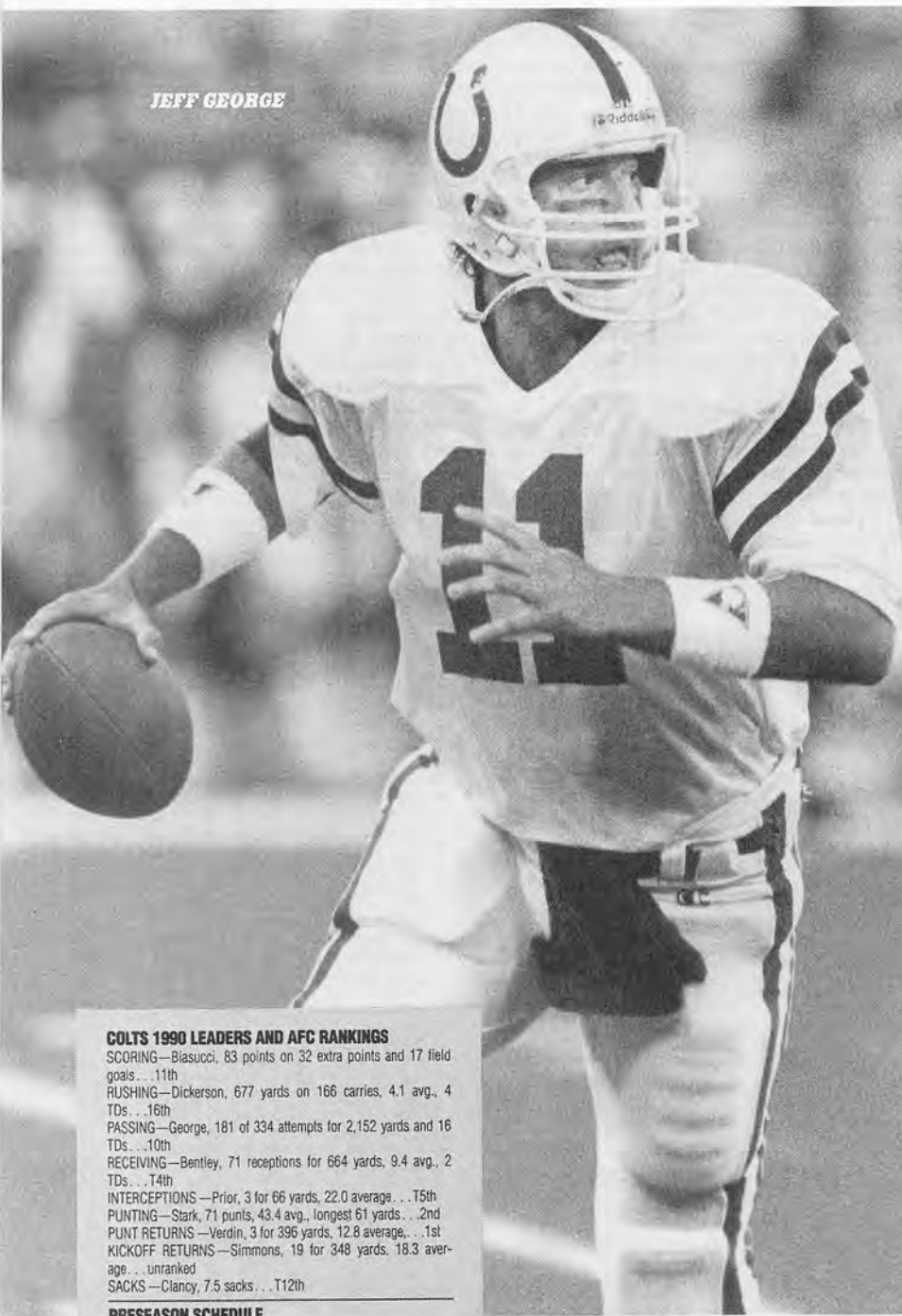
DOLPHINS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
86	Banks, Fred	WR	5-10	185	29	Liberty
84	Baty, Greg	TE	6-5	240	27	Stanford
	Berg, Steve	DE	6-4	280	25	Gustavus Adolphus
53	Bolcar, Ned	LB	6-1	235	24	Notre Dame
82	Brown, Andre	WR	6-3	210	25	Miami
37	Brown, J.B.	CB	6-0	192	24	Maryland
83	Clayton, Mark	WR	5-9	185	30	Louisville
50	Cooper, Louis	LB	6-2	238	28	W. Carolina
91	Cross, Jeff	DE	6-4	272	25	Missouri
65	Dellenbach, Jeff	OL	6-6	285	28	Wisconsin
74	Dennis, Mark	T	6-6	295	26	Illinois
85	Duper, Mark	WR	5-9	192	32	Northwest La.
80	Edmunds, Farrell	TE	6-6	254	26	Maryland
22	Fullwood, Brent	RB	5-11	210	28	Auburn
62	Galbreath, Harry	G	6-1	275	26	Tennessee
35	Glenn, Kerry	CB	5-9	178	29	Minnesota
55	Green, Hugh	LB	6-2	230	32	Pittsburgh
92	Griggs, David	LB	6-3	248	24	Virginia
59	Grimsley, John	LB	6-2	238	29	Kentucky
45	Harden, Bobby	S	6-0	192	24	Miami
87	Henry, Charles	TE	6-4	230	27	Miami
21	Higgs, Mark	RB	5-7	195	25	Kentucky
29	Hobley, Liffort	S	6-0	202	29	LSU
38	Holt, Leroy	FB	5-10	224	24	Southern Cal
24	Jackson, Vestee	CB	6-0	186	28	Washington
11	Jensen, Jim	WR	6-4	224	33	Boston U.
54	Junior, E.J.	LB	6-3	242	32	Alabama
99	Klingbeil, Chuck	NT	6-1	260	26	N. Michigan
58	Krauss, Barry	LB	6-3	250	34	Alabama
44	Lankford, Paul	CB	6-1	191	33	Penn State
98	Lee, Shawn	NT	6-2	285	25	North Alabama
32	Limbrick, Garrett	FB	6-2	240	26	Oklahoma St.
72	Linn, Jack	T	6-5	278	24	West Virginia
20	Logan, Marc	FB	5-11	222	26	Kentucky
13	Marino, Dan	QB	6-4	224	30	Pittsburgh
89	Martin, Tony	WR	6-0	180	26	Mesa
28	McGruder, Michael	CB	5-11	190	29	Kent State
19	Mitchell, Scott	QB	6-6	236	23	Utah
27	Moore, Steven	S	5-11	204	24	Mississippi
93	Odom, Cliff	LB	6-2	243	33	Texas Arlington
56	Offerdahl, John	LB	6-3	238	27	W. Michigan
96	Oglesby, Alfred	NT	6-3	278	24	Houston
25	Oliver, Louis	S	6-2	226	25	Florida
49	Paige, Tony	FB	5-10	235	29	Virginia Tech
90	Price, Terry	DE	6-4	272	23	Texas A&M
23	Ray, Pat	CB	5-10	180	25	Missouri
52	Reichenbach, Mike	LB	6-2	240	30	E. Stroudsburg
4	Roby, Reggie	P	6-2	246	30	Iowa
	Rose, Blaine	G	6-5	271	25	Maryland
81	Schwedes, Scott	WR	6-0	185	26	Syracuse
9	Secules, Scott	QB	6-3	220	27	Virginia
88	Sievers, Eric	TE	6-4	238	34	Maryland
69	Sims, Keith	G	6-2	305	24	Iowa State
30	Smith, Don	RB	5-11	200	28	Mississippi St.
33	Smith, Sammie	RB	6-2	230	24	Florida State
70	Sochia, Brian	DL	6-3	278	30	NW Okla St.
10	Stoyanovich, Pete	K	5-10	185	24	Indiana
95	Turner, T.J.	DE	6-4	280	28	Houston
63	Uhlenhake, Jeff	C	6-3	284	25	Ohio State
78	Webb, Richmond	T	6-6	298	24	Texas A&M
60	Weidner, Bert	OL	6-3	284	25	Kent State
26	Williams, Jarvis	S	5-11	200	26	Florida

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Hill, Randal	WR	5-10	177	Miami
3	Craver, Aaron	RB	6-0	214	Fresno State
5	Cox, Brian	LB	6-4	235	W. Illinois
5	Williams, Eugene	G	6-2	310	Iowa State
7	Green, Chris	DB	5-11	183	Illinois
8	Smith, Roland	DB	5-9	180	Miami
9	Miller, Scott	WR	5-10	178	UCLA
10	Titley, Michael	TE	6-3	235	Iowa
11	Rogers, Ernie	G	6-4	290	California
12	Brunson, Joe	DT	6-3	280	UT-Chattanooga

JEFF GEORGE



COLTS 1990 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Biasucci, 83 points on 32 extra points and 17 field goals... 11th
 RUSHING—Dickerson, 677 yards on 166 carries, 4.1 avg., 4 TDs... 16th
 PASSING—George, 181 of 334 attempts for 2,152 yards and 16 TDs... 10th
 RECEIVING—Bentley, 71 receptions for 664 yards, 9.4 avg., 2 TDs... 14th
 INTERCEPTIONS—Prior, 3 for 66 yards, 22.0 average... 15th
 PUNTING—Stark, 71 punts, 43.4 avg., longest 61 yards... 2nd
 PUNT RETURNS—Verdin, 3 for 396 yards, 12.8 average... 1st
 KICKOFF RETURNS—Simmons, 19 for 348 yards, 18.3 average... unranked
 SACKS—Clancy, 7.5 sacks... 112th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	2	At Denver (N)
	10	SEATTLE (N)
	17	NEW ORLEANS (N)
	23	At Philadelphia (N)

1991 SCHEDULE		1990 SCORES
September	1	NEW ENGLAND.....14-16
	8	At Miami.....17-23
	15	At Los Angeles Raiders.....—
	22	DETROIT.....—
	29	At Seattle.....—
October	6	PITTSBURGH (N).....—
	13	At Buffalo.....10-26
	20	NEW YORK JETS.....17-14
	27	OPEN DATE.....—
November	3	MIAMI.....7-27
	10	At New York Jets.....29-21
	17	CHICAGO.....—
	24	Green Bay at Milwaukee.....—
December	1	CLEVELAND.....—
	8	At New England.....13-10
	15	BUFFALO (N).....7-31
	22	At Tampa Bay.....—

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

This could be the season the Colts stop traveling the divided highway. They played their best football in the second half of the season, winning five of eight, when Eric Dickerson stopped pulling in the opposite direction from coach Ron Meyer and his bright young quarterback, Jeff George. The second-half surge may not have qualified Meyer for serious consideration as coach of the year, but the patch-up job he did on his team's attitude should have made him psychologist of the year.

Dickerson was virtually a fifth columnist as the season began. He was so disruptive that the Colts suspended him for the first five games. It ended his NFL record at seven consecutive 1,000-yard seasons. It appeared that Dickerson would be written off as just another

sour chapter in the franchise's recent history. Yet, down the stretch, he seemed to get a grip on reality. He got the ball far more often, had three 100-yard games after Thanksgiving, seemed happier and stopped ragging on his teammates. "My spirit isn't broken," he proclaimed after the season.

That is good news for Colt loyalists, since George arrived as an NFL quarterback at the same time Dickerson's interest in football was rekindled. George threw 14 of his 16 touchdown passes in the last half. He had a three-touchdown day in the victory over Cincinnati and another as the Colts beat Washington. Some of his rookie numbers were similar to those put up by such great quarterbacks as Fran Tarkenton, Joe Namath, Jim Plunkett, and Dan Marino. The Colts foresee a glowing future for George.



Dickerson will be 31 the day after Indy opens its season. He understands that the clock is ticking on his career. He soiled his chances for the Hall of Fame with his conduct over the last couple of years. He still has time, and now he may realize it. Dickerson needs 16 more 100-yard games to catch Walter Payton. A 837-yard season would push him past Tony Dorsett into second place on the NFL's all-time rushing list. If he wants to be enshrined with the immortals, however, Dickerson needs to spend the rest of his career being a team player. If he does, the Colts could be a serious playoff contender this season.

The major offensive question is who is going to protect George and open the holes for Dickerson? Even with the quarterback's quick release, he was sacked 37 times. The word

used most often to describe the line is "undistinguished." Ray Donaldson, already a three-year veteran when the franchise moved from Baltimore in 1984, is a good center, but the rest of the line is a scramble. The unusual aspect is that Meyer did not take much advantage of either the draft or Plan B for line help. Mark Vander Poel, Colorado's giant, unpolished tackle, was the fourth-round draftee. Tackle Travis Davis was signed as a free agent from New Orleans's unprotected list. The guards are Randy Dixon and Pat Tomberlin, with Brian Baldinger and 338-pound Ze-

fross Moss at tackle. Second-year guard William Schultz could make a move.

In order to keep George in one piece, Meyer emphasized running back Albert Bentley as a receiver. He led the team with 71 catches, which produced 664 yards. He also ran for 556 yards. Reliable wide receiver Bill Brooks had 62 catches and a 13.3-yard average. The surprise was Jessie Hester, who had his best season with 54 catches for six touchdowns and a 17.1-yard average, the latter two numbers club highs. Veteran Stanley Morgan was a valuable third receiver, scoring five touchdowns on his 23 catches. Rookie tight end Kerry Cash of Texas could be a more frequent target than Pat Beach, whose blocking is his forte.

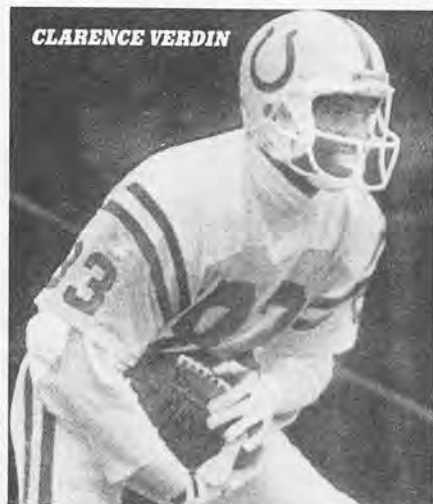
Meyer wants to improve the pass rush and he thinks Shane Curry, the top draft pick from Miami, may help. Sam Clancy, the 33-year-old veteran, was the top sacker with 7½. Otherwise, there was little push from the line. Jon Hand, injured part of the year, had 4½ sacks, nose tackle Harvey Armstrong 3½, and Donnell Thompson 1½. Tony Siragusa, tough but slow, shares nose-tackle duty with Armstrong.

Even though Duane Bickett, normally a Pro Bowl player, had a down year, the Colts' defensive strength is still its linebacking. Jeff Herrod really wasn't a fixture at inside linebacker until the last 12 games, but he still led the team with 155 tackles, 38 more than runner-up Bickett. The linebackers are a big part

of the pass rush. Herrod and Chip Banks, the unpredictable outside backer, had 4½ sacks each and Bickett 3½. Quintus McDonald should replace the retired Fred Young, an expensive bust, on the inside.

The Colts, partially due to the poor pass rush, had just nine interceptions, the lowest in the AFC. Right corner Eugene Daniel, strong safety Keith Taylor, and free safety Mike Prior started every game. Chris Goode took the left corner job from Alan Grant at midseason. The draft brings third-rounder Dave McCloughan, the Colorado cornerback, who may be better suited to safety in the pros. He's also an accomplished return man.

Two Colt specialists, punter Rohn Stark and return ace Clarence Verdin, were voted the Pro Bowl. Stark averaged 43.4 yards on his 71 punts, dropping an AFC-leading 24 inside the 20-yard line. Verdin led the NFL in punt returns with a 12.8-yard average, almost two yards per return better than the next man. Dean Biasucci kicked 17 of 24 field goals.



CLARENCE VERDIN



DUANE BICKETT



RAY DONALDSON



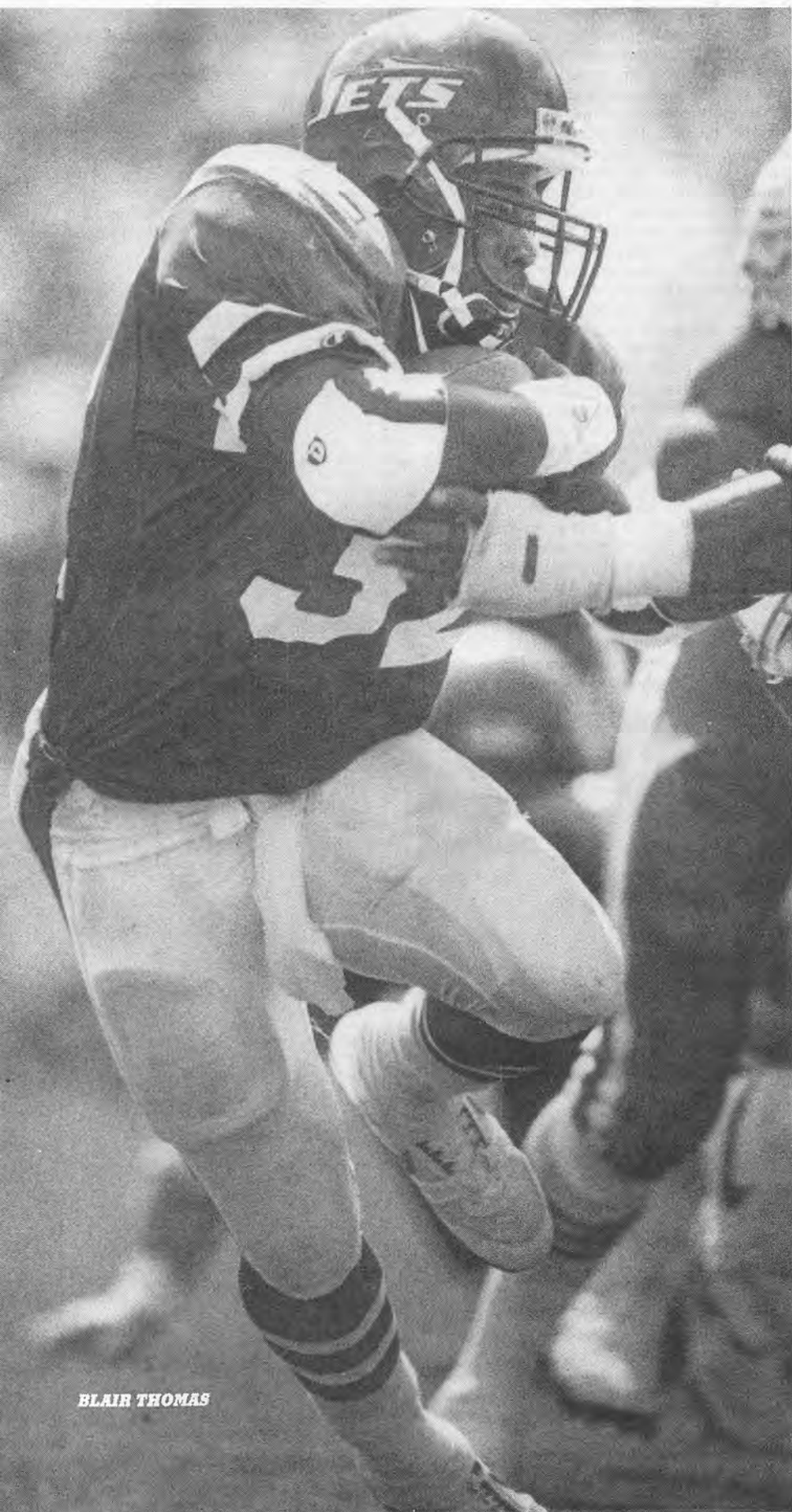
ROHN STARK

COLTS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
79	Armstrong, Harvey	NT	6-3	282	32	SMU
62	Baldinger, Brian	OG	6-4	278	32	Duke
31	Ball, Michael	DB	6-0	220	28	Southern U.
51	Banks, Chip	LB	6-4	254	32	Southern Cal
36	Baylor, John	DB	6-0	203	26	Southern Miss
81	Beach, Pat	TE	6-4	249	32	Washington St.
20	Bentley, Albert	RB	5-11	217	31	Miami
4	Biasucci, Dean	K	6-0	190	29	W. Carolina
50	Bickett, Duane	LB	6-5	251	29	Southern Cal
80	Brooks, Bill	WR	6-0	189	27	Boston U.
71	Call, Kevin	OT	6-7	308	30	Colorado State
76	Clancy, Sam	DE	6-7	290	33	Pittsburgh
66	Conlin, Chris	DL	6-4	287	26	Penn State
72	Cunningham, Pat	OT	6-6	295	22	Texas A&M
38	Daniel, Eugene	DB	5-11	188	30	LSU
	Davis, Travis	DL	6-2	280	25	Michigan State
29	Dickerson, Eric	RB	6-3	224	31	SMU
	Dixon, Randy	OG	6-3	302	26	Pittsburgh
53	Donaldson, Ray	C	6-3	300	33	Georgia
	Figaro, Cedric	LB	6-3	248	25	Notre Dame
11	George, Jeff	QB	6-4	221	24	Illinois
37	Goode, Chris	DB	6-0	196	28	Alabama
26	Grant, Alan	DB	5-10	187	25	Stanford
78	Hand, Jon	DE	6-7	301	28	Alabama
9	Herrmann, Mark	QB	6-4	220	32	Purdue
54	Herrod, Jeff	LB	6-0	246	25	Mississippi
84	Hester, Jessie	WR	5-11	172	28	Florida State
7	Hilger, Rusty	QB	6-4	209	29	Oklahoma St.
25	Holloway, Cornell	DB	5-11	162	25	Pittsburgh
45	Hunter, Ivy Joe	RB	6-0	247	25	Kentucky
23	Johnson, Anthony	FB	6-0	222	24	Notre Dame
96	McDonald, Quintus	LB	6-3	263	25	Penn State
87	Mobley, Orson	TE	6-5	259	28	Salem
86	Morgan, Stanley	WR	5-11	185	36	Tennessee
73	Moss, Zefross	OT	6-6	338	25	Alabama State
39	Prior, Mike	DB	6-0	210	28	Illinois State
52	Radicic, Scott	LB	6-3	236	29	Penn State
74	Schultz, William	OT	6-5	293	24	Southern Cal
85	Simmons, Stacey	WR	5-9	183	23	Florida
98	Siragusa, Tony	NT	6-3	291	24	Pittsburgh
3	Stark, Rohn	P	6-3	203	32	Florida State
27	Taylor, Keith	DB	5-11	206	27	Illinois
99	Thompson, Donnell	DE	6-4	280	33	North Carolina
68	Tomberlin, Pat	OT	6-2	330	25	Florida State
10	Trudeau, Jack	QB	6-3	219	29	Illinois
83	Verdin, Clarence	WR	5-8	162	28	SW La.
92	Walker, Tony	LB	6-3	235	23	SE Missouri St.

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
2	Curry, Shane	DE	6-4	259	Miami
3	McCloughan, Dave	DB	6-0	180	Colorado
4	Vander Poel, Mark	T	6-7	303	Colorado
5	Cash, Kerry	TE	6-4	247	Texas
6	Agee, Mel	DT	6-5	285	Illinois
7	Bradley, James	WR	5-11	195	Michigan State
8	Bruton, Tim	TE	6-3	250	Missouri
9	Griffith, Howard	RB	5-11	220	Illinois
10	Gianetti, Frank	DE	6-3	265	Penn State
11	Crafts, Jerry	T	6-6	324	Louisville
12	Luedeke, Rob	C	6-5	250	Penn State



BLAIR THOMAS

NEW YORK JETS

The Jets ended last season by sinking a couple of rudderless ships, New England and Tampa Bay. Was it enough to plan a future upon? Or was it material for self-deception? Bruce Coslet demonstrated that he had a lot of his old boss, Sam Wyche, in him during a sometimes erratic rookie season as head coach. But if Coslet doesn't recognize an obvious opportunity this season, he may spend a lot of time lamenting the route not taken.

The obvious conclusion is that the Jets, as constituted, are a running team. They improved their ground attack by 33 yards a game in 1990. Their per-carry average improved by a whopping half a yard, to 4.5. Conversely, their passing production dropped by 41 yards a game, yet they scored 42 points more than they did in '89. In the last four games, they averaged 173 rushing yards.

Then there is running back Blair Thomas. The former Penn State star didn't sign his contract until the week before the season, so the Jets' backfield was manned, reluctantly, by committee. Thomas led the team with 620 yards and an admirable five-yard average. But it didn't come together until the end. In the next to last game, Thomas ran for 88 yards. In the final, he scored his first touchdown. Dick Steinberg, the general manager, didn't make Thomas the second player taken in the 1990 draft so that he could be one among many. Expect him to be the Jets' main man in '91.

As if to underline their plans, the Jets made a couple of quick postseason trades to acquire veteran tackles Ron Mattes from Seattle and Irv Eatman from Kansas City. They could be Thomas's best buddies very soon. The interior of the Jet line isn't bad, particularly if Dave Cadigan picks up where he left off at right guard before he suffered a knee injury in

JETS 1990 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Leahy, 101 points on 32 extra points and 23 field goals... 5th
 RUSHING—Thomas, 620 yards on 123 carries, 5.0 avg., 1 TD... 17th
 PASSING—O'Brien, 226 of 411 attempts for 2,855 yards and 13 TDs... 8th
 RECEIVING—Toon, 57 receptions for 757 yards, 13.3 avg, 6 TDs... 110th
 INTERCEPTIONS—McMillan, 5 for 92 yards, 18.4 average... T3rd
 PUNTING—Prokop, 59 punts, 40.1 average, longest 58 yards... 7th
 PUNT RETURNS—Townsell, 17 for 154 yards, 9.1 average... un-ranked
 KICKOFF RETURNS—Mathis, 43 for 787 yards, 18.3 average... 13th
 SACKS—Byrd, 13.0 sacks... 4th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 3 PHILADELPHIA (N)
 10 Kansas City at St. Louis, MO (N)
 17 At N.Y. Giants (N)
 24 Washington at Columbia, SC (N)

1991 SCHEDULE

September	1	TAMPA BAY	16-14
	8	At Seattle	—
	15	BUFFALO	7-30
	23	At Chicago (N)	—
	29	MIAMI	3-17
October	6	At Cleveland	24-21
	13	HOUSTON	17-12
	20	At Indianapolis	14-17
	27	OPEN DATE	—
November	3	GREEN BAY	—
	10	INDIANAPOLIS	21-29
	17	At New England	37-13
	24	SAN DIEGO	3-39
December	1	At Buffalo	27-30
	8	At Detroit	—
	15	NEW ENGLAND	42-7
	22	At Miami	16-20

the fifth game. Jim Sweeney is a class center and Mike Haight is O.K. at left guard. The tackles are Jeff Criswell and Brett Miller.

Brad Baxter is the type of fullback who can knock down people on Thomas's behalf. He is a promising short-yardage runner who gained 539 yards with six touchdowns. Freeman McNeil (458 and 6 TDs) is still a handy leader to have around. Johnny Hector, unprotected in Plan B, added 377 yards.

Coslet installed a new offense designed to keep his quarterbacks from being annihilated. It worked. Sacks were down from 40 to 22. Interceptions were cut from 24 to 11 and giveaways from 41 to 24. The young coach isn't going to leave it there. "No way are we standing pat in personnel," Coslet promised. "There were people here at the end of the season who won't be here on opening day."

The warning may apply especially to his quarterbacks. Ken O'Brien started all 16 games, but he was less than impressive with 2,855 yards and 13 touchdown passes. It would not be a shock if Coslet started all over with second-year man Troy Taylor. The Jets may have their quarterback of the future in Browning Nagle, schooled by Howard Schnellenberger at Louisville. He was their top pick, in the second round of the draft.

The Jets made a wise choice by dipping into the supplemental draft last spring for Rob Moore. It cost them their first-round pick this year, when there was no one available in Moore's class. He caught 44 passes for 692 yards and six touchdowns and was a popular choice for the all-rookie team. Moore should be a deadly partner for Al Toon, who missed all or most of three games and still led the team with 57 catches, 757 yards, and six touchdowns. Depth is a problem. Coslet went into Plan B to sign tight end Mark Boyer. The Jets wanted blocking and possession receiving and Boyer gave them both. He had 40 catches, but didn't take them very far.



AL TOON



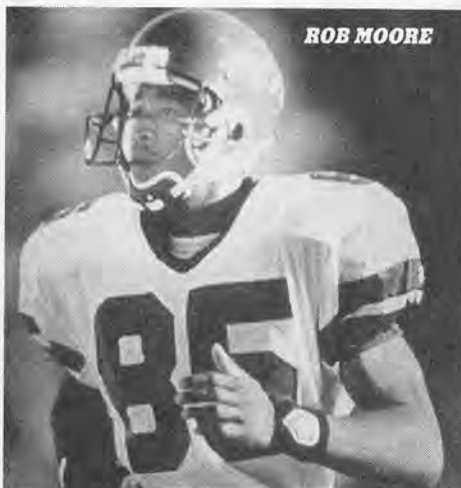
KEN O'BRIEN

Defensively, the improvement was more than modest under hotshot young coordinator Pete Carroll. The pass-yardage yield went down by 27 yards per game and rushing by seven yards; takeaways went up by 15, sacks by 10, interceptions by three, and fumbles recovered by two. The most impressive improvements were that opponents' touchdowns decreased by 11 and points by 66.

Ironically, defense is where the Jets seem to need the most help. The line is particularly small by today's standards. Even end Dennis Byrd, whose 13 individual sacks were the most for a Jet since Mark Gastineau's prime and trailed only two other NFL linemen (superstars Bruce Smith and Reggie White), is no monster. His game is quickness more than power. Jeff Lageman is an oversized linebacker. The other end, Ron Stallworth, was traded to Kansas City for Eatman. The new man is Marvin Washington, who started two games. Scott Mersereau is a quick nose tackle, who contributed 4½ sacks. Mark Gunn, a fourth-round draftee from Pitt, adds size.

The defensive leader is middle linebacker Kyle Clifton, who had 195 tackles, 103 more than the next Jet, and three interceptions. Consistency is Clifton's hallmark. He has led the team in tackles five of the last seven years. Joe Kelly is recovering from a knee injury. The other linebackers, Joe Mott and Troy Johnson, are undistinguished. Draftee Morris Lewis of Georgia was taken in the third round.

Erik McMillan, the veteran free safety, had a disappointing season. Strong safety Brian



ROB MOORE

Washington could be challenged. The corners, James Hasty and pro sophomore Tony Stargell, are first-rate.

The most amazing Jet continues to be Pat Leahy, who, at age 40, is their reigning most valuable player. He missed only three of 26 field goals. Joe Prokop remains steady, dropping 18 of his 50 punts inside the 20 and averaging 40.1 yards. Terance Mathis is the return specialist. He averaged 15 yards on 11 punt returns as a rookie, including a 98-yarder for a touchdown. He was less effective as a kickoff man, averaging just 18.3 yards.

JETS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
30	Baxter, Brad	RB	6-1	235	24	Alabama State
	Bosa, John	DE	6-4	270	27	Boston College
80	Boyer, Mark	TE	6-4	242	29	Southern Cal
	Brim, Mike	CB	6-0	186	25	Virginia Union
29	Brown, A.B.	RB	5-9	215	26	West Virginia
87	Burkett, Chris	WR	6-4	200	29	Jackson State
90	Byrd, Dennis	DE	6-5	270	25	Tulsa
66	Cadigan, Dave	OL	6-4	285	26	Southern Cal
59	Clifton, Kyle	LB	6-4	236	29	TCU
61	Criswell, Jeff	T	6-7	291	27	Graceland (IA)
49	Curtis, Travis	S	5-10	180	28	West Virginia
98	Davis, Darrell	DE	6-2	258	25	TCU
89	Dawkins, Dale	WR	6-1	190	25	Miami
84	Dressel, Chris	TE	6-4	239	30	Stanford
62	Duffy, Roger	C	6-3	285	24	Penn State
	Eatman, Irv	T	6-7	298	30	UCLA
44	Egu, Patrick	RB	5-11	206	24	Nevada-Reno
91	Frase, Paul	DL	6-5	260	26	Syracuse
52	Galvin, John	LB	6-3	230	26	Boston College
79	Haight, Mike	G	6-4	279	29	Iowa
40	Hasty, James	CB	6-0	201	26	Washington St.
34	Hector, Johnny	RB	5-11	207	31	Texas A&M
	Houston, Bobby	LB	6-1	230	24	N. C. St.
26	Johnson, Ken	S	6-2	208	25	Florida A&M
95	Johnson, Troy	LB	6-2	236	27	Oklahoma
58	Kelly, Joe	LB	6-2	235	27	Washington
19	Kelly, Pat	TE	6-6	252	26	Syracuse
	Kors, R.J.	S	6-0	195	25	Long Beach St.
56	Lageman, Jeff	DE-LB	6-5	265	24	Virginia
5	Leahy, Pat	K	6-0	200	40	St. Louis
81	Mathis, Terance	WR	5-10	170	24	New Mexico
64	Matich, Trevor	OL	6-4	282	30	BYU
23	Mayes, Michael	CB	5-10	173	25	LSU
22	McMillan, Erik	S	6-2	200	26	Missouri
92	McNeil, Emanuel	DT	6-3	277	24	TN-Martin
24	McNeil, Freeman	RB	5-11	208	32	UCLA
94	Mersereau, Scott	DL	6-3	273	26	Southern CT
72	Miller, Brett	T	6-7	293	33	Iowa
85	Moore, Rob	WR	6-3	205	23	Syracuse
51	Mott, Joe	LB	6-4	243	26	Iowa
77	Nichols, Gerald	DL	6-2	260	27	Florida State
7	O'Brien, Ken	QB	6-4	212	31	Cal-Davis
21	Odegaard, Don	CB	6-0	180	25	UNLV
	Pickel, Bill	DT	6-5	260	32	Rutgers
20	Price, Dennis	CB	6-1	175	26	UCLA
6	Prokop, Joe	P	6-2	225	31	Cal Poly-Pomona
96	Stallworth, Ron	DL	6-5	260	25	Auburn
45	Stargell, Tony	CB	5-11	190	25	Tennessee St.
57	Stephens, Mac	LB	6-3	220	23	Minnesota
53	Sweeney, Jim	OL	6-4	275	29	Pittsburgh
14	Taylor, Troy	QB	6-4	200	23	California
32	Thomas, Blair	RB	5-10	195	24	Penn State
88	Toon, Al	WR	6-4	205	28	Wisconsin
83	Townsell, JoJo	WR	5-9	182	31	UCLA
48	Washington, Brian	S	6-1	220	26	Nebraska
97	Washington, Marvin	DL	6-6	276	26	Idaho
86	Wellsandt, Doug	TE	6-3	248	24	Washington St.
67	White, Dwayne	G	6-2	312	24	Alcorn State
33	Williams, Terry	DB	5-11	208	26	Beth-Cookman
63	Zawatson, Dave	OL	6-5	287	25	California

DRAFTEES

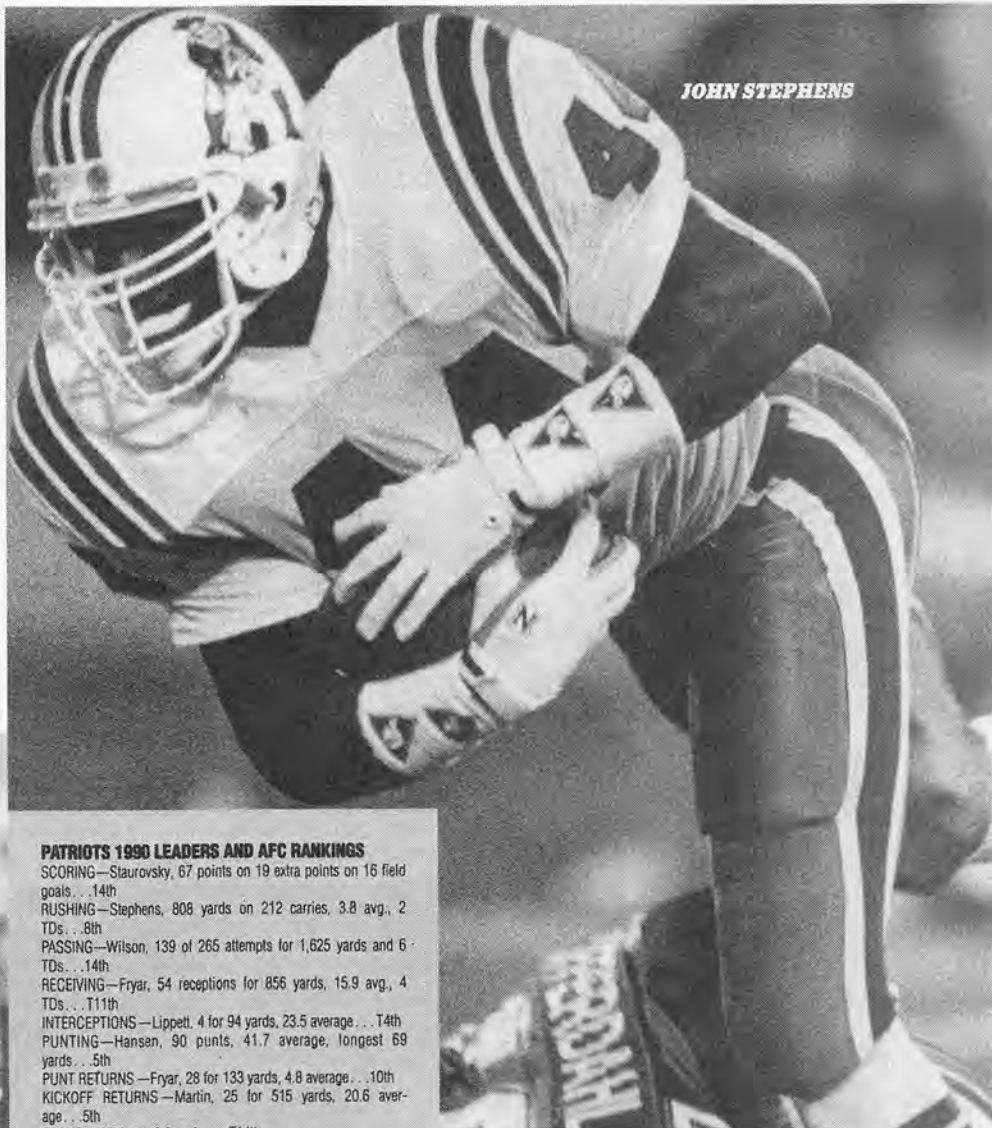
rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
2	Nagle, Browning	QB	6-3	225	Louisville
3	Lewis, Morris	LB	6-3	240	Georgia
4	Gunn, Mark	DT	6-5	285	Pittsburgh
6	Bryant, Blaise	RB	5-11	201	Iowa State
6	Riley, Mike	CB	5-11	175	Tulane
7	Parrish, Doug	DB	6-0	200	San Francisco St.
8	Jarres, Tim	DB	6-1	210	Colorado
9	Glonek, Paul	DT	6-5	280	Arizona
10	Baker, Al	RB	5-11	223	Kentucky
11	Keeton, Rocco	LB	6-3	242	UCLA
12	Hayes, Mark	T	6-6	295	Arizona State

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

If, as they like to think in the NFL, draft day is the first day of the rest of a team's life, then the latest version of the New England Patriots had a disappointing birthday. The Pats, who possessed the valuable first pick in the draft, got snookered when they dealt it to Dallas. The Pats didn't end up with Rocket Ismail, yet they didn't get a rich package of draft picks and players either.

Are the Pats in the hands of amateurs once again? Certainly Sam Jankovich, the new general manager and former athletic director at the University of Miami, began that way. At least Dick MacPherson, the new head coach, will have all season to prove himself worthy. MacPherson is a young, effervescent 60 who had the energy to return Syracuse University to a level of football it hadn't enjoyed for many years. He is not an NFL neophyte, having been an assistant coach at Denver and Cleveland before taking the Syracuse job. Some see Mac's Patriot contract as a retirement package, yet he may be just the energetic salesman to restore confidence in the franchise among both the fans and the players.

To begin with, the Pats are not as bad as their 1-15 record indicates. They have some outstanding talent. If they get lucky with their



PATRIOTS 1990 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Stavrovsky, 67 points on 19 extra points on 16 field goals... 14th
 RUSHING—Stephens, 808 yards on 212 carries, 3.8 avg., 2 TDs... 8th
 PASSING—Wilson, 139 of 265 attempts for 1,625 yards and 6 TDs... 14th
 RECEIVING—Fryar, 54 receptions for 856 yards, 15.9 avg., 4 TDs... 11th
 INTERCEPTIONS—Lippett, 4 for 94 yards, 23.5 average... 14th
 PUNTING—Hansen, 90 punts, 41.7 average, longest 69 yards... 5th
 PUNT RETURNS—Fryar, 28 for 133 yards, 4.8 average... 10th
 KICKOFF RETURNS—Martin, 25 for 515 yards, 20.6 average... 5th
 SACKS—Williams, 6.0 sacks... 14th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 3 At Green Bay (N)
 10 WASHINGTON (N)
 17 At Phoenix (N)
 24 N.Y. GIANTS

1991 SCHEDULE

		1990 SCORES
September	1 At Indianapolis.....	16-14
	8 CLEVELAND.....	—
	15 At Pittsburgh.....	3-24
	22 HOUSTON.....	—
October	6 MIAMI.....	24-27
	13 OPEN DATE.....	—
	20 MINNESOTA.....	—
	27 DENVER.....	—
November	3 At Buffalo.....	0-14
	10 At Miami (N).....	10-17
	17 NEW YORK JETS.....	13-37
	24 BUFFALO.....	10-27
December	1 At Denver.....	—
	8 INDIANAPOLIS.....	10-13
	15 At New York Jets.....	7-42
	22 At Cincinnati.....	7-41

tored by Coury as a developmental project for the Rams. He knows Coury's system and his experience should keep the Pats out of too much trouble, a plus in this transition year.

Three years ago, John Stephens broke in as one of the ranking pile-movers in the NFL. The Associated Press named him Rookie of the Year after his 1,168-yard season. Everything has been downhill since, especially his attitude. If he decides to shape up, he and Russell could give the Pats a power tandem. Stephens was the busiest runner a year ago, gaining 808 yards on 212 carries. Jon Vaughn, whose sophomore season at Michigan began with a splash and ended with him on the bench, is another draftee.

With Harlow in the lineup, Danny Villa is moved to center, which should strengthen the line. The problem position is guard. The incumbents are Chris Gambol and Damian Johnson, but third-round draft choice Calvin Stephens of South Carolina could make a bid.

If MacPherson is successful in maintaining discipline with Irving Fryar and Hart Lee Dykes, there will be no skill problem at wide receiver. Fryar caught a career-high 54 passes for a 15.9-yard average but seldom realized his big-play potential. Dykes caught 34 for 16.1, yet previous coaches have not

rehabilitation programs and most of their key injured players return to good health, they could be competitive. There will be radical changes, at least in philosophy. There has to be, since the offense, for example, is a contradiction in terms. The Patriots still have a quarterback crisis, yet 77 percent of their yardage was gained through passing. The rushing average was a paltry 87 yards per game.

MacPherson hired another old pro, Dick Coury, from the Rams to install a new attack. Coury wants a running game that will set up play-action passing. The drafting was designed to produce those results. The Pats took Southern Cal tackle Pat Harlow and Arizona State running back Leonard Russell with their two first-round selections. Harlow, a 288-pounder schooled in the Trojan running game, will be placed at right tackle, opposite

Pro Bowl starter Bruce Armstrong. Russell played only one season of major college ball, but his power and quickness should eventually contribute to the ball-control plans.

Unless Tom Hodson shows a lot more than he did as the late-season starter in his rookie year, Hugh Millen, signed as a Plan B free agent, is likely to be the starting quarterback. Millen gained most of his experience as a backup in Atlanta, but before that he was tu-





HART LEE DYKES

extracted the best from him. Young Greg McMurtry has exciting possibilities. Tight end Marv Cook should be important in the ball-control scheme. He caught 51 passes for 455 yards and five touchdowns.

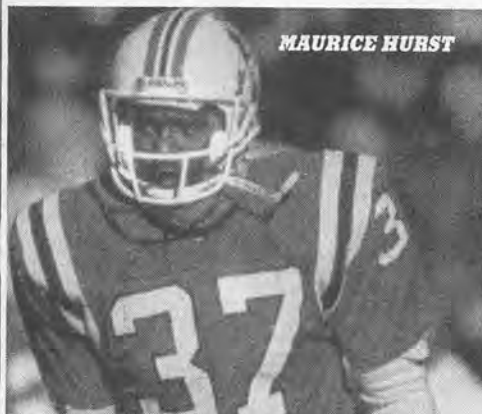
Good things could happen on defense, especially with the new coordinator, veteran Joe Collier, itching to redeem himself after being purged by Dan Reeves in Denver after the '88 season. A lot depends upon the recovery from injuries by linebackers Johnny Rembert and Andre Tippett and end Garin Veris. Rembert suffered a knee injury that caused him to miss 11 games after making the two previous Pro Bowls. Tippett's return after missing the 1989 season because of a pectoral injury was marred by a knee injury. Veris's knee problems caused him to miss most of the last two seasons. Ed Reynolds is another linebacker returning from a knee injury. Left end Brent Williams is the top pass rusher and sophomore Ray Agnew is a potential star on the right side. Tim Goad is the nose tackle.

Vincent Brown and Ila Jarostchuk started at inside linebacker in the absence of Rembert and Reynolds. Chris Singelton, who reported late after being drafted in the first round, could make a difference at right outside linebacker opposite Tippett. He was a disappointment as a rookie. Veteran Eugene Lockhart was obtained from Dallas for the top draft pick.

The only defensive back with a guaranteed job is right corner Maurice Hurst. Left corner Ronnie Lippett never fully recovered from his 1989 Achilles' tendon injury. Safeties Fred Marion, Rod McSwain, and Roland James all



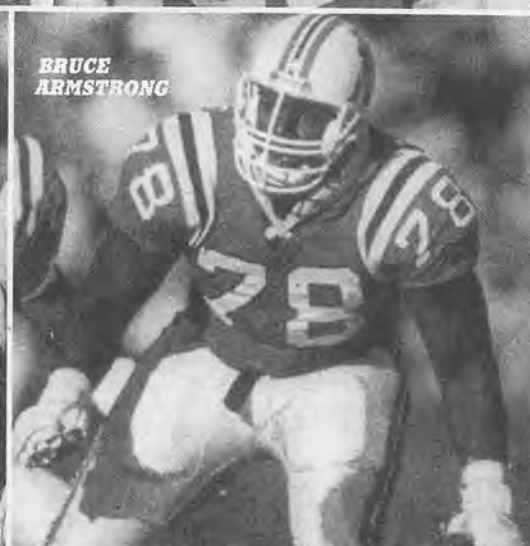
VINCENT BROWN



MAURICE HURST



TIM GOAD



BRUCE ARMSTRONG

have high mileage. Ron Francis arrived with Lockhart from the Cowboys and Clemson corner back Jerome Henderson was drafted in the second round, with two other defensive backs taken lower.

Jason Staurovsky kicked 16 field goals in 22 attempts, most of his misses from afar. Brian Hansen punted 90 times for a 41.7-yard average, but his 33.6 net average was among the lowest in the AFC. There are opportunities for new return men. Sammy Martin left via Plan B and Fryar's 4.8-yard punt-return average was the lowest in the NFL.

PATRIOTS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
33	Adams, George	RB	6-1	225	29	Kentucky
92	Agnew, Ray	DE	6-3	272	24	N.C. St.
39	Allen, Marvin	RB	5-10	208	26	Tulane
78	Armstrong, Bruce	T	6-4	284	26	Louisville
59	Brown, Vincent	LB	6-2	245	26	Miss. Valley St.
76	Clayton, Stan	OL	6-3	265	26	Penn State
63	Chillon, Gene	C	6-3	286	27	Texas
22	Coleman, Eric	CB	6-0	190	25	Wyoming
46	Cook, Marv	TE	6-4	234	25	Iowa
65	Crawford, Elbert	OL	6-3	280	25	Arkansas
71	DeRiggi, Fred	NT	6-2	268	24	Syracuse
67	Douglas, David	OL	6-4	280	28	Tennessee
88	Dykes, Hart Lee	WR	6-4	218	25	Oklahoma St.
66	Fairchild, Paul	G	6-4	270	30	Kansas
80	Fryar, Irving	WR	6-0	200	29	Nebraska
74	Gambol, Chris	OL	6-6	303	27	Iowa
91	Gannon, Chris	DE	6-6	260	25	SW Louisiana
43	Gibson, Ernest	CB	5-10	185	30	Furman
72	Goad, Tim	NT	6-3	280	25	North Carolina
28	Gordon, Tim	FS	6-0	188	26	Tulsa
14	Grogan, Steve	QB	6-4	210	38	Kansas State
58	Harvey, Richard	LB	6-1	227	25	Tulane
60	Hobby, Marion	DE	6-4	277	25	Tennessee
13	Hodson, Tom	QB	6-3	195	24	LSU
35	Hunter, Ivory Joe	RB	6-0	237	25	Kentucky
37	Hurst, Maurice	CB	5-10	185	24	Southern U.
38	James, Roland	SS	6-2	191	33	Tennessee
50	Jarostchuk, Ila	LB	6-3	245	27	New Hampshire
68	Johnson, Damian	OL	6-5	290	29	Kansas State
	Jones, Victor	RB	5-8	212	23	LSU
35	Landry, Anthony	RB	5-9	200	25	S.F. Austin
42	Lippett, Ronnie	CB	5-11	180	31	Miami
31	Marion, Fred	FS	6-2	191	32	Miami
82	Martin, Sammy	WR	5-11	175	26	LSU
86	McMurtry, Greg	WR	6-2	207	24	Michigan
23	McSwain, Rod	CB	6-1	198	29	Clemson
64	Melander, Jon	T	6-7	280	25	Minnesota
	Millen, Hugh	QB	6-5	216	28	Washington
81	Mowatt, Zeke	TE	6-3	240	30	Florida St.
52	Rembert, Johnny	LB	6-3	234	30	Clemson
95	Reynolds, Ed	LB	6-5	242	30	Virginia
27	Robinson, Junior	CB	5-9	181	23	East Carolina
55	Singelton, Chris	LB	6-2	247	24	Arizona
97	Smith, Sean	DE	6-7	280	24	Georgia Tech
4	Staurovsky, Jason	K	5-9	170	28	Tulsa
44	Stephens, John	RB	6-1	215	25	NW Louisiana
	Strachan, Steve	RB	6-1	225	27	Boston College
53	Tardis, Richard	LB	6-2	218	26	Georgia
45	Timpson, Michael	WR	5-10	175	24	Penn St.
56	Tippett, Andre	LB	6-3	241	32	Iowa
90	Veris, Garin	DE	6-4	255	28	Stanford
70	Viaene, David	T	6-5	300	26	MN-Duluth
75	Villa, Danny	OL	6-5	305	27	Arizona State
21	Washington, Mickey	CB	5-9	187	23	Texas A&M
96	Williams, Brent	DE	6-4	275	27	Toledo
54	Williams, Ed	LB	6-4	244	30	Texas
25	Zackery, Tony	FS	6-2	195	25	Washington

DRAFTTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Harlow, Pat	OT	6-6	288	Southern Cal
1	Russell, Leonard	RB	6-1	237	Arizona State
2	Henderson, Jerome	DB	5-11	189	Clemson
3	Stephens, Calvin	G	6-2	266	South Carolina
4	Zolak, Scott	DB	6-5	222	Maryland
5	Vaughn, Jon	RB	5-9	203	Michigan
5	Coates, Ben	TE	6-5	250	Livingston
6	Key, Dave	DB	5-10	197	Michigan
7	Miller, Blake	C	6-1	280	LSU
8	Colon, Harry	DB	5-11	203	Mississippi
10	Bethel, Randy	TE	6-3	240	Miami
11	Moore, Vince	WR	5-10	202	Tennessee
11	Alsbury, Paul	P	6-2	203	SW Texas State
12	Edwards, Tim	DT	6-2	270	Delta State

AFC West

STEVE DeBERG

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

The Chiefs may be a serious contender for the Super Bowl, but they aren't going to get there by taking anyone by surprise. Three years ago, the Chiefs won four games. In 1989, their first season under coach Marty Schottenheimer and general manager Carl Peterson, they were 8-7-1. Last year they were 11-5, the franchise's best record since 1969, when they won the Super Bowl. They finished the '90 season by winning six of their last seven games, including the last four on the road. Kansas City is coming down the hill like an avalanche, not a glacier.

Not only are the Chiefs talented, they are versatile. They were the only NFL team to have two runners gain more than 800 yards: 1,015 for Barry Word and 805 for Christian Okoye. At the same time, quarterback Steve DeBerg connected with Stephone Paige and J.D. Birken for three of the 10 longest pass plays in the history of the team. Paige had 1,021 yards, making K.C. the only team with a 1,000-yard receiver to go with a 1,000-yard rusher. The versatility extends to the defense. The Chiefs led the NFL in sacks by a wide margin, with 60, and only one opposing runner, Bobby Humphrey of Denver, gained more than 100 yards rushing in a game against them.

The only nagging question is whether DeBerg, their 37-year-old most valuable player, can do an encore. "I know some people think we are going after a quarterback because of DeBerg's age," said Peterson before the college draft, "but we're not. We think Steve will have another great year for us."

He'd better, since there isn't much behind him. Backup Steve Pelluer threw only five passes last year. Around the NFL, Pelluer is still seen as a quarterback as likely to scramble with the ball as pass it. Mike Elkins, whom K.C. drafted in the second round two years ago, was loaned to a WFLA team last spring and didn't even make an impression there. DeBerg threw for 3,444 yards and 23 touchdowns, a figure exceeded only by Moon, Cunningham, Montana, Kelly, and Esiason. The DeBerg statistic treasured above all others by the cautious Schottenheimer was the mere four interceptions among a total of 444 passes attempted. That is an interception percentage of 0.9, best in the NFL.

DeBerg spread the ball around. Four receivers caught at least 40 passes. Seven had at least one touchdown. Tops was Paige with 65 catches, then 41 apiece by Rob Thomas and Emile Harry, followed by running back Todd McNair's 40. Running back Bill Jones

CHIEFS 1990 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Lowery, 139 points on 37 extra points and 34 field goals... 1st
RUSHING—Word, 1,015 yards on 204 carries, 5.0 avg., 4 TDs... 4th
PASSING—DeBerg, 258 of 444 attempts for 3,444 yards and 23 TDs... 3rd
RECEIVING—Paige, 65 receptions for 1,021 yards, 15.7 avg., 5 TDs... 6th
INTERCEPTIONS—Ross, 5 for 97 yards, 19.4 average... T3rd
PUNTING—Barker, 64 punts, 38.7 average, longest 56 yards... 11th
PUNT RETURNS—Worthen, 25 for 180 yards, 7.2 average... 7th
KICKOFF RETURNS—McNair, 14 for 227 yards, 16.2 average... Unranked
SACKS—Thomas, 20.0 sacks... 1st

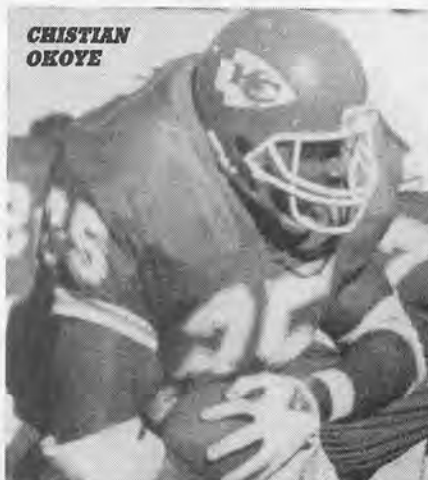
PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	3	DALLAS (N)
	10	N.Y. JETS at St. Louis, MO (N)
	17	DETROIT (N)
	23	At Tampa Bay (N)

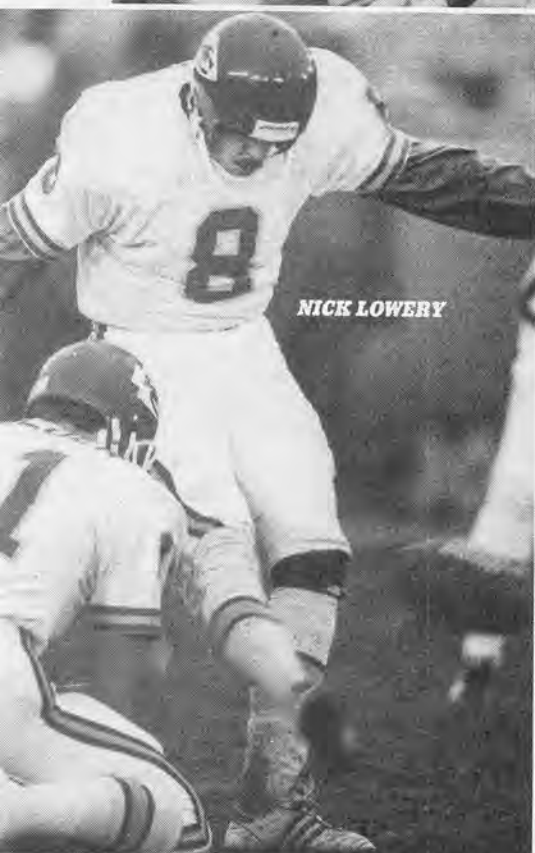
1991 SCHEDULE		1990 SCORES
September	1	ATLANTA.....
	8	NEW ORLEANS.....
	16	At Houston (N)..... 10-27
	22	SEATTLE..... 16-17
	29	At San Diego..... 24-21
October	7	BUFFALO (N).....
	13	MIAMI.....
	20	At Denver..... 23-24
	28	LOS ANGELES RAIDERS (N)..... 9-7
November	3	OPEN DATE.....
	10	At Los Angeles Rams.....
	17	DENVER..... 31-20
	24	At Cleveland..... 34-0
December	1	At Seattle..... 7-19
	8	SAN DIEGO..... 27-19
	14	At San Francisco.....
	22	At Los Angeles Raiders..... 27-24

caught only 19, but he tied Paige with five touchdown receptions. Birden averaged 23.5 yards on his 15 catches, three of which were touchdowns. Tim Barnett of Jackson State, taken in the third round of the draft, adds speed. With an eye on the possession passing game, the Chiefs went into Plan B for veteran tight end Pete Holohan and pass-catching back Troy Stradford. Jonathon Hayes, the No. 1 tight end, is basically a blocker.

Word, the reconditioned former Virginia star, had been out of football for two years, part of which he spent in jail. He added explosion to the ground game. Word had runs of 53, 45, and 34 yards. He started only three times, partially in deference to Okoye, who moved into third place on the team's all-time rushing list. Strangely, Harvey Williams, the LSU running back, was the No. 1 draft choice. If he makes it big, Okoye could be traded.



CHRISTIAN OKOYE



NICK LOWERY

The record of the offensive line is amazing. No matter who carried the ball, the Chiefs gained at least 100 yards in 12 games. The pass protection allowed just 22 sacks, fourth-lowest in the league. The startling aspect is that the Chiefs started two rookies, center Tim Grunhard and left guard Dave Szott. Left tackle John Alt is among pro football's best. Right guard David Lutz and right tackle Rich Bal-dinger are solid veterans. The Chiefs took Joe Valerio of Penn in the second round.

It is a big-play defense. Besides the NFL-leading sack total, the Chiefs also were first in the league in fumbles recovered (24) and tied with Chicago for the most takeaways (45). Any discussion of the defense starts with Derrick Thomas, who is the focus of every opposing offensive coordinator's game plan. Despite all the attention, the all-pro Thomas had 20 sacks and led the team with six forced fumbles from his right outside linebacker position. Inside linebacker Dino Hackett led the team with 94 tackles. Percy Snow, last year's top draft choice, immediately won a starting job next to Hackett and contributed heavily. Chris Martin, the left outside backer, had 74 tackles, including 5½ sacks.



DERON CHERRY

Defensive end Neil Smith used his huge wingspan to record 9½ sacks and was credited with 44 quarterback pressures. He also forced four fumbles. Nose tackle Dan Saleaumua may be the most underrated defensive player in the AFC. He was second on the Chiefs in tackles, recovered a team-leading five fumbles, had seven sacks, and was credited with 41 pressures. Bill Maas, moved to right end because of the emergence of Saleaumua, had 5½ sacks. Leonard Griffin adds heat in passing situations.

The secondary includes two Pro Bowl corners, Albert Lewis and Kevin Ross. The Chiefs set an NFL record with six blocked punts. Lewis had four of them. Strong safety Kevin Porter had 72 tackles. Veteran Deron Cherry isn't the free safety he once was, but he remains a wily field general.

Place-kicker Nick Lowery, unsuccessful on just three of 37 field goals, went to the Pro Bowl again. Rookie Robbie Keen of California should challenge incumbent punter Bryan Baker. The kickoff-coverage team chopped five yards off its average yield to 17.2. Naz Worthen did a passable job as a punt returner, but the Chiefs need a kickoff-returner.

CHIEFS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
70	Alt, John	T	6-8	290	29	Iowa
38	Anders, Kimble	RB	5-11	210	26	Houston
77	Baldinger, Rich	T	6-4	291	32	Wake Forest
4	Barker, Bryan	P	6-1	187	27	Santa Clara
3	Barnes, Lew	WR	5-8	170	29	Oregon
99	Bell, Mike	DE	6-4	266	34	Colorado St.
26	Bell, Richard	RB	6-0	200	24	Nebraska
88	Birden, J.J.	WR	5-9	160	25	Oregon
34	Burruss, Lloyd	S	6-0	211	34	Maryland
55	Charlton, Clifford	LB	6-3	246	25	Florida
20	Cherry, Deron	S	5-11	205	32	Rutgers
84	Davis, Willie	WR	6-0	159	24	Central Ark.
17	Deberg, Steve	QB	6-3	214	37	San Jose State
19	Dixon, Titus	WR	5-6	152	25	Troy State
94	Dunn, Chris	LB	6-3	235	25	Cal Poly-SLO
10	Elkins, Mike	QB	6-3	225	26	Wake Forest
91	Fears, Willie	DL	6-4	287	27	NW La.
39	Ford, Herman	CB	5-9	185	26	None
22	Gamble, Kenny	RB	5-10	206	26	Colgate
74	Graham, Derrick	T	6-4	306	24	Appalachian St.
98	Griffin, Leonard	DE	6-4	276	29	Grambling
61	Grunhard, Tim	C	6-2	302	23	Notre Dame
56	Hackett, Dino	ILB	6-3	230	27	Appalachian St.
88	Harry, Emile	WR	5-11	188	28	Stanford
86	Hayes, Jonathan	TE	6-5	254	29	Iowa
92	Henry, Maurice	LB	5-11	220	24	Kansas State
89	Holohan, Pete	TE	6-4	235	32	Notre Dame
43	Jones, Bill	RB	5-11	228	25	SW Texas St.
80	Jones, Fred	WR	5-9	175	24	Grambling
29	Lewis, Albert	CB	6-2	190	31	Grambling
8	Lowery, Nick	K	6-4	205	35	Dartmouth
72	Lutz, David	G	6-6	305	32	Georgia Tech
63	Maas, Bill	DE	6-6	270	29	Pittsburgh
57	Martin, Chris	OLB	6-2	245	31	Auburn
51	Marts, Lonnie	DLB	6-1	235	23	Tulane
48	McNair, Todd	RB	6-1	197	26	Temple
30	Mitchell, Stump	RB	5-9	194	32	The Citadel
50	Munford, Marc	LB	6-2	231	26	Nebraska
35	Okoye, Christian	RB	6-1	260	30	Azusa Pacific
40	Owens, Michael	RB	6-11	218	23	Syracuse
83	Paige, Stephone	WR	6-2	188	30	Fresno State
24	Pearson, Jayce	CB	5-11	180	28	Washington
11	Pelluer, Steve	QB	6-4	212	29	Washington
45	Petry, Stan	CB	5-11	180	25	TCU
27	Porter, Kevin	S	5-10	214	25	Auburn
52	Rogers, Tracy	ILB	6-2	241	24	Fresno State
31	Ross, Kevin	CB	5-9	182	29	Temple
87	Sadowski, Troy	TE	6-5	205	26	Georgia
97	Saleaumua, Dan	NT	6-0	285	26	Arizona State
21	Saxon, James	RB	5-11	225	25	San Jose St.
93	Shaw, Ricky	LB	6-4	240	26	Oklahoma St.
54	Simien, Tracy	LB	6-1	245	24	TCU
95	Sims, Tom	NT	6-2	285	24	Pittsburgh
90	Smith, Neil	DE	6-4	275	25	Nebraska
59	Snow, Percy	ILB	6-2	248	24	Michigan State
96	Stallworth, Ron	DE	6-6	260	25	Auburn
25	Stradford, Troy	RB	5-9	192	27	Boston College
79	Scott, David	G	6-4	278	24	Penn State
58	Thomas, Derrick	OLB	6-3	244	24	Alabama
81	Thomas, Robb	WR	5-11	174	25	Oregon State
32	Thompson, Ernest	RB	6-2	236	24	Ga. Southern
13	Vlasic, Mark	QB	6-3	206	28	Iowa
46	Washington, Charles	CB	6-1	210	25	Cameron
82	Whitaker, Danta	TE	6-4	248	27	Miss. Valley St.
70	Williams, Larry	G	6-5	290	28	Notre Dame
65	Winters, Frank	OL	6-3	285	27	Western Illinois
23	Word, Barry	RB	6-2	240	27	Virginia

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Williams, Harvey	RB	6-1	215	LSU
2	Valerio, Joe	T	6-5	293	Pennsylvania
3	Barnett, Tim	WR	6-1	201	Jackson State
5	Mincy, Charles	DB	6-0	187	Washington
6	Malone, Darrell	DB	5-10	182	Jacksonville St.
7	Ellison, Bernard	DB	6-0	195	Nevada
8	Dohring, Tom	T	6-7	292	Michigan
9	Keen, Robbie	K	6-3	215	California
10	Ramsey, Eric	DB	5-11	187	Auburn
11	Olive, Bobby	WR	6-0	160	Ohio State
12	Shipley, Ron	G	6-3	300	New Mexico

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

Al Davis thinks he discovered the antidote to that 51-3 snakebite suffered by the Raiders in the AFC championship game last January. He imported the Lott-Craig serum. Davis invested a significant amount in signing safety Ronnie Lott and running back Roger Craig, two all-time San Francisco 49er heroes, as Plan B free agents during the winter. It may have been costly, but the investment seems wise. The Raiders, despite their return to traditional ways by winning the AFC West, need a lift from both Craig and Lott.

Consider the addition of Craig. Now that Bo Jackson's entire athletic career is in jeopardy, the Raider running game needed something special. At this time of his career, Craig can't provide it by himself, but the Raiders might be able to use the committee method to create a viable running game. The leadership and heavy work can be divided by Craig and Marcus Allen, who demonstrated his great value again during the second half of last season. Allen scored 12 touchdowns and gained 682 yards. Neither Craig nor Allen has much explosion left, but Greg Bell does. With Bo around, Bell lost interest because he knew he wasn't going to be doing much playing. But if Bell feels like playing, he still can be productive. It's up to coach Art Shell and Davis to get him interested once again.

In many ways, Lott was born to be a Raider. He isn't the athletic marvel he once was, but he's still willing to sacrifice his body and that of his opponent. He also is one of the smartest players in the league. He is the tide that could raise all Raider defensive boats.

Uneasy lies the crown on L.A.'s head. One major reason for the uneasiness is quarterback Jay Schroeder, who slides between competency and disintegration. Coach Art

Shell does a lot of rationalization. "Jay made an awful lot of good decisions last year," said Shell. "A lot more than he did the year before. He did a heck of a job."

If Schroeder's play did improve, some of the credit should go to Mike White, the former college head coach who is now the Raider quarterback coach. White's main success with Schroeder may have been in convincing him that he doesn't have to be "the guy," that he is just one of the necessary cogs in the machine. Schroeder does not respond well when he gets the idea the team's success

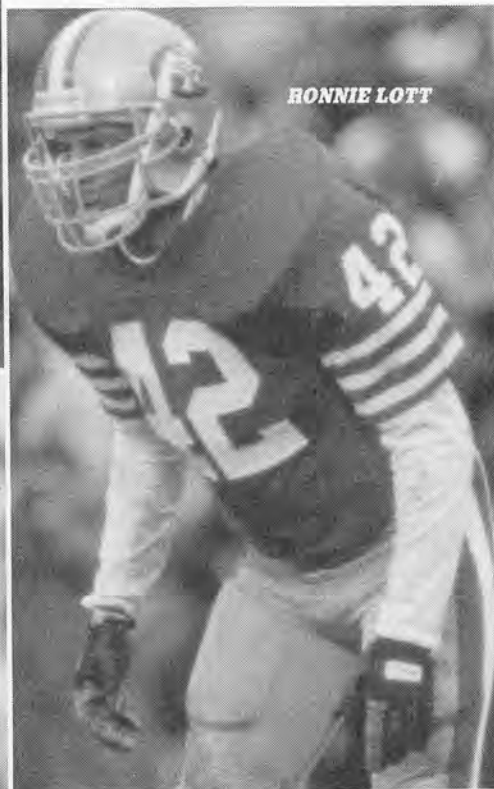
depends mostly upon him. Schroeder's numbers weren't bad. He finished among the NFL's top 10 quarterbacks with 19 touchdown passes, 2,849 yards, and a 90.8 efficiency rating. With White's counseling, he managed to get his interceptions down to nine and far under the league's average interception rate.

The curious part of the quarterback picture is Steve Beuerlein. He held out last year, a move guaranteed to incur the rare wrath of Davis. Once the holdout ended, Beuerlein became a nonperson. He never played in a game. Yet he was protected on the Raiders' Plan B list. The question is what plans Davis has for him after a year in solitary.

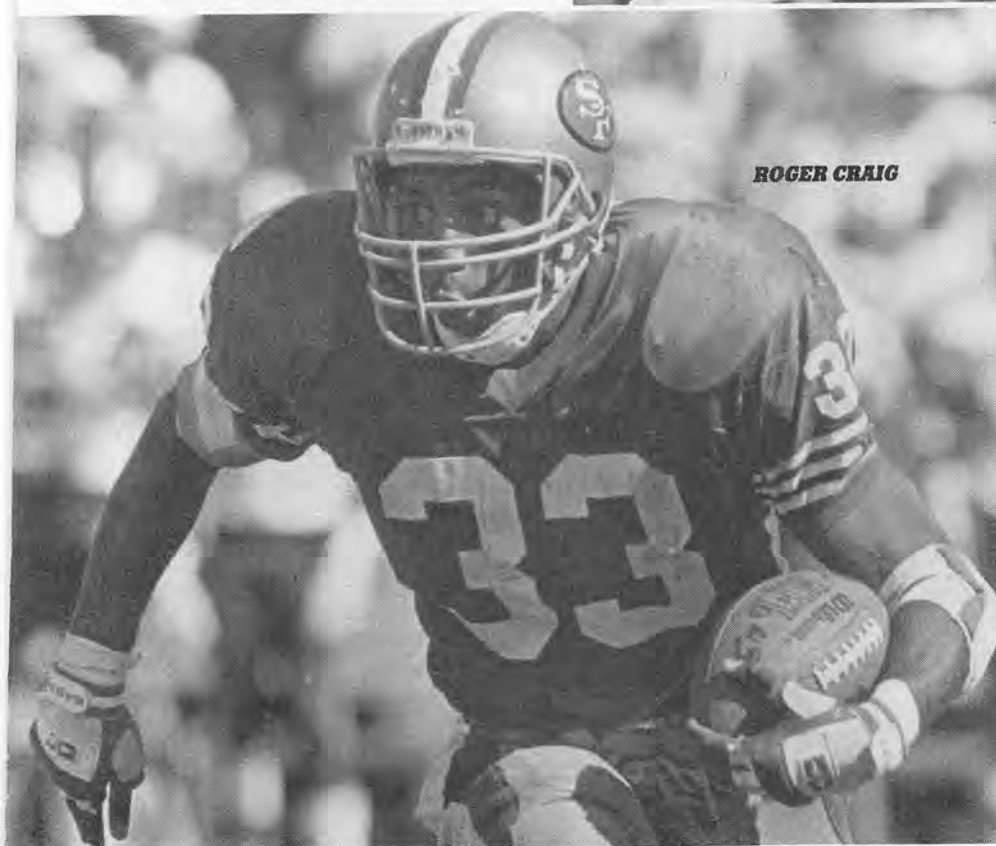
The Raiders still love to play long ball. Wide receiver Willie Gault had a terrific year, averaging 19.7 yards on his 50 catches. Mervyn Fernandez averaged 16.1 on his 52. (Even Raider discards can't break the habit. James Lofton and Jessie Hester both finished among the AFC's high-average leaders.) The bonus was that Tim Brown finally came all the way back from his 1988 knee injury to contribute, catching 18 passes for three touchdowns and a 14.7-yard average.



MARCUS ALLEN



RONNIE LOTT



ROGER CRAIG

The tight end is traditionally a major part of the Raider pass offense. After Mike Dyal got hurt, Ethan Horton emerged as the find of the season. It sounded like the Todd Christensen story all over. Once drafted in the first round as a running back by Kansas City, Horton flopped with the Chiefs and then floundered from team to team. It was the Raiders, famed for their vision, who saw possibilities at tight end. He caught 33 passes for a 12.2-yard average. He's a horse in the open field.

There is far more strength in the interior of the offensive line than there is at the tackles. Don Mosebar remains one of the league's better centers and left guard Steve Wisniewski, in his third season as a starter, is pushing his way among the elite. Max Montoya, even at

age 35, should have a season left. Tackles Rory Graves and Steve Wright improved. Just to make sure, Joel Patten was signed from San Diego's Plan B list. Raider quarterbacks were sacked 29 times.

The Raiders returned to their terrorist ways on defense, ranking second in the NFL with 48 sacks. Greg Townsend, an underrated end for too long, ascended to official Raider Hero status last year. His 12½ sacks led the team. Second with 10 was Scott Davis, an emerging stud. Rookie linebacker Aaron Wallace added nine and old reliable Howie Long, whose demise was greatly exaggerated, had six. If L.A. has a worry in the defensive line it is the wear and tear Bob Golic's 34 years and lengthy battering as a nose tackle have exacted. If Anthony Smith can make a rookie splash after missing last year with knee surgery, Shell will have some maneuvering room. Smith was the top draft choice in '90.

Shell can't be too comfortable about linebacker Jerry Robinson's 35 years. Wallace may be used in an expanded role. O'Brien Alston, once an able pass-rusher for Indianapolis, arrives via Plan B. The other starters are middle man Riki Ellison and Tom Benson.

If Lott is at free safety, the secondary will be well-aged, with 32-year-old Mike Harden at strong safety and Lionel Washington, 31, at one corner. Shell could keep Eddie Anderson at free safety and use Lott on the strong side. The only youth in the backfield is cornerback Terry McDaniel.

The Raiders' draft was described in terms such as "curious" and "weird." Selecting young quarterback Todd Marinovich of USC on the first round is as close to genetic engineering as Davis is likely to come. Todd's father, Marv, is a former Raider player and

strength coach, and the Marinoviches are old family friends of the Davises. The question is how soon Todd will be ready, considering that he played only two years of college football. The last season was full of controversy and disappointment. He needs coaching.

Iowa's 252-pound running back, Nick Bell, once was considered a sure pick among the draft's top 10 players, but he fell to the second round when the scouts determined that he was a long-strider who reminded them, ironically for the Raiders, of Horton when he came out of college. Many talent appraisers thought Bell could play only in a tailback offense. The Raiders use a tailback offense.

Davis's decision to draft Rocket Ismail may turn out to be a wiser move than his coup in taking title to Bo Jackson's football rights. It turned out that Ismail's long-term contract with the Toronto Argos allows him to leave the Canadian League after one year.

RAIDERS 1990 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Jaeger, 85 points on 40 extra points and 15 field goals, .9th
RUSHING—Jackson, 698 yards on 125 carries, 5.6 avg., 5 TDs, .14th
PASSING—Schroeder, 182 of 334 attempts for 2,849 yards and 19 TDs, .4th
RECEIVING—Fernandez, 52 receptions for 839 yards, 16.1 avg., 5 TDs, .12th
INTERCEPTIONS—Anderson, 3 for 49 yards, 16.3 average, .75th
PUNTING—Gossett, 60 punts, 38.6 average, longest 51 yards, .12th
PUNT RETURNS—Brown, 34 for 295 yards, 8.7 average, .4th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Holland, 32 for 655 yards, 20.5 average, .6th
SACKS—Townsend, 12.5 sacks, .75th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July 27 SAN FRANCISCO
August 3 Miami at Tokyo, Japan (N)
12 At Dallas (N)
17 CHICAGO
23 At San Diego (N)

1991 SCHEDULE

September 1 At Houston.....
8 DENVER.....
15 INDIANAPOLIS.....
22 At Atlanta.....
29 SAN FRANCISCO.....
October 6 SAN DIEGO.....
13 At Seattle (N).....
20 LOS ANGELES RAMS.....
28 At Kansas City (N).....
November 3 OPEN DATE.....
10 At Denver.....
17 SEATTLE.....
24 At Cincinnati.....
December 1 At San Diego (N).....
8 BUFFALO.....
16 At New Orleans (N).....
22 KANSAS CITY.....

1990 SCORES

.....14-9
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.....17-12
.....17-13
.....7-9
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.....23-20
.....24-17
.....24-7
.....24-9
.....24-38
.....
.....24-27



HOWIE LONG



TODD MARINOVICH

RAIDERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
	Adams, Stefan	WR	5-10	185	27	East Carolina
32	Allen, Marcus	RB	6-2	210	31	Southern Cal
	Alston, O'Brien	LB	6-6	240	25	Maryland
33	Anderson, Eddie	S	6-1	205	28	Fort Valley St.
28	Bell, Greg	RB	5-10	210	29	Notre Dame
54	Benson, Tom	LB	6-2	240	30	Oklahoma
7	Beuerlein, Steve	QB	6-2	210	26	Notre Dame
24	Brown, Ron	CB	5-11	190	30	Arizona State
81	Brown, Tim	WR	6-0	195	25	Notre Dame
	Craig, Roger	RB	6-0	220	30	Nebraska
70	Davis, Scott	DE	6-7	270	26	Illinois
46	Dorn, Torin	CB	6-0	190	23	North Carolina
84	Dyal, Mike	TE	6-2	240	25	Texas A&I
50	Ellison, Riki	LB	6-2	230	31	Southern Cal
11	Evans, Vince	QB	6-2	210	36	Southern Cal
86	Fernandez, Marvyn	WR	6-3	200	32	San Jose St.
73	FitzPatrick, James	T	6-8	300	27	Southern Cal
83	Gaul, Willie	WR	6-1	175	31	Tennessee
	Glenn, Vencie	S	6-0	190	26	Indiana State
79	Golic, Bob	DT	6-2	275	34	Notre Dame
6	Gossett, Jeff	P	6-2	195	34	Illinois
85	Graddy, Sam	WR	5-10	175	27	Tennessee
60	Graves, Rory	T	6-6	295	28	Ohio State
45	Harden, Mike	S	6-1	200	32	Michigan
82	Holland, Jamie	WR	6-1	195	27	Ohio State
88	Horton, Ethan	TE	6-4	240	29	North Carolina
34	Jackson, Bo	RB	6-1	235	29	Auburn
18	Jaeger, Jeff	K	5-11	195	27	Washington
	Klostermann, Bruce	LB	6-4	235	27	South Dakota St.
25	Land, Dan	S	6-0	195	26	Albany State
21	Lewis, Garry	CB	5-11	185	24	Alcorn
75	Long, Howie	DE	6-5	270	31	Villanova
	Lott, Ronnie	S	6-0	200	32	Southern Cal
41	McCaillum, Napoleon	RB	6-2	220	28	Naval Academy
36	McDaniel, Terry	CB	5-10	180	26	Tennessee
65	Montoya, Max	G	6-5	290	35	UCLA
72	Mosebar, Don	C	6-6	280	30	Southern Cal
42	Mueller, Vance	RB	6-0	220	27	Occidental
	Patten, Joel	T	6-7	305	33	Duke
43	Patterson, Elvis	S	5-11	195	31	Kansas
64	Peat, Todd	G	6-2	315	27	Illinois
57	Robinson, Jerry	LB	6-2	230	35	UCLA
13	Schroeder, Jay	QB	6-4	215	30	UCLA
35	Smith, Steve	RB	6-1	240	27	Penn State
93	Townsend, Greg	DE	6-3	270	30	TCU
67	Turk, Dan	C	6-4	275	29	Wisconsin
51	Wallace, Aaron	LB	6-3	230	24	Texas A&M
48	Washington, Lionel	CB	6-0	190	31	Tulane
68	Wilkerson, Bruce	T	6-5	295	27	Tennessee
90	Wise, Mike	DE	6-7	270	27	Cal-Davis
76	Wisniewski, Steve	G	6-4	280	24	Penn State
66	Wright, Steve	T	6-6	280	32	Northern Iowa

DRAFTTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Marinovich, Todd	QB	6-4	218	Southern Cal
2	Bell, Nick	RB	6-2	252	Iowa
4	Ismail, Raghib	WR	5-10	175	Notre Dame
6	Harrison, Nolan	DT	6-5	290	Indiana
8	Jones, Brian	LB	6-1	240	Texas
8	Woulard, Todd	LB	6-1	230	Alabama A&M
9	Lewis, Tahauri	DB	5-11	170	Nebraska
10	Glover, Andrew	TE	6-7	215	Grambling
12	Johnson, Dennis	WR	6-1	200	Winston-Salem

JOHN ELWAY

DENVER BRONCOS

To begin with, the Broncos are nowhere near as poor a team as their 5-11, last-place record a year ago indicated. Consider the point margin in seven of their losses: 5, 1, 1, 5, 3, 3, 5. Two of those losses, by five and three points, were to the division-champion Raiders. The Broncos split with Kansas City, the other AFC West playoff team.

Denver's problem seems to be P.S.B.B.T. That's Post-Super Bowl Blowout Trauma. After their fourth Super embarrassment, the Broncos seemed to suffer from a loss of confidence at critical moments. The evidence is that they were outscored, 131-75, in the fourth quarter of last year's games. For that matter, they were outscored nearly two to one, 226-121, in the second half.

Considering all the carnage, quarterback John Elway is coming off a decent season, there is a nucleus of talented players, and the Super Bowl wounds should be starting to heal. What isn't clear is whether Dan Reeves is up to the salvage job. Reeves suffered a collapse early last season and his health is a factor. He hired one of his old father figures from the Dallas Cowboys, 65-year-old Ernie Stautner, as defensive line coach. Stautner might have a calming effect upon Reeves.

The offense was not the principal culprit. Denver scored more points, 331, than any non-playoff team in the AFC. Elway passed for 3,526 yards and 15 touchdowns. The fact that the Broncos were behind so often in the second half contributed to his being sacked 43 times. There was no panic in the man. His 2.8 interception ratio was reasonable. Elway was never more accurate. His .586 completion

BRONCOS 1990 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Treadwell, 109 points on 34 extra points and 25 field goals... 3rd
 RUSHING—Humphrey, 1,202 yards on 288 carries, 4.2 avg., 7 TDs... 3rd
 PASSING—Elway, 294 of 502 attempts for 3,526 yards and 15 TDs... 7th
 RECEIVING—Jackson, 57 receptions for 926 yards, 16.2 avg., 4 TDs... 110th
 INTERCEPTIONS—Henderson, 2 for 71 yards, 35.5 average, 1 TD... 16th
 PUNTING—Horan, 58 punts, 44.4 average, longest 67 yards... 1st
 PUNT RETURNS—Clark, 21 for 159 yards, 7.6 average... 6th
 KICKOFF RETURNS—Clark, 20 for 505 yards, 25.3 average... 1st
 SACKS—Fletcher, 11.0 sacks... 7th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July 27 Detroit at Canton, OH
 August 2 INDIANAPOLIS (N)
 7 At San Francisco (N)
 19 MIAMI (N)
 23 At Phoenix (N)

1991 SCHEDULE

		1990 SCORES
September	1 CINCINNATI.....	—
	8 At Los Angeles Raiders.....	9-14
	15 SEATTLE.....	34-31
	22 SAN DIEGO.....	20-10
	29 At Minnesota (N).....	22-27
October	6 At Houston.....	—
	13 OPEN DATE.....	—
	20 KANSAS CITY.....	24-23
	27 At New England.....	—
November	3 PITTSBURGH (N).....	17-34
	10 LOS ANGELES RAIDERS.....	20-23
	17 At Kansas City.....	24-23
	24 At Seattle.....	12-27
December	1 NEW ENGLAND.....	—
	8 At Cleveland.....	29-30
	15 PHOENIX.....	—
	22 At San Diego.....	7-19

STEVE ATWATER



percentage was a career high. He completed at least 70 percent against Seattle, Minnesota, and Indianapolis. He also tied a personal best with 30 completions against the Seahawks. While he remains in a Denver uniform, the Broncos always have a chance. There is a new concern about the backup quarterback since Gary Kubiak had surgery to correct back problems. The Broncos took a late-round stab at Virginia's Shawn Moore.

Another swift receiver would help. Mark Jackson had 57 catches for a 16.2-yard average, but Vance Johnson slipped some. He caught 54 balls, his fewest in three years. His biggest games came early in the season. Michael Young caught 28 passes and scored four touchdowns, but Ricky Nattiel hasn't been the same since breaking his kneecap in 1988. The draft brings Derek Russell, who averaged more than 20 yards per catch for Arkansas. The Broncos have one of the best blocking tight ends in the NFL, Clarence Kay,

but Kay's off-the-field behavior worries Reeves so much that he drafted the top blocking end in college football, Reggie Johnson of Florida State.

The ground game is Bobby Humphrey against the world. Humphrey gained 1,202 yards, fifth in the NFL. He's also improving as a receiver. What the Broncos need is depth. The only other running back with more than 100 yards was Sammy Winder, who has retired. Reeves traded the troubled offensive tackle Gerald Perry to the Rams for Gaston Green, a disappointment in L.A. The Broncos also drafted Greg Lewis of Washington and signed Robert Perryman, the ex-Patriot, as a Plan B free agent. Melvin Bratton is mainly a blocker and pass catcher and Steve Sewell a third-down receiver.

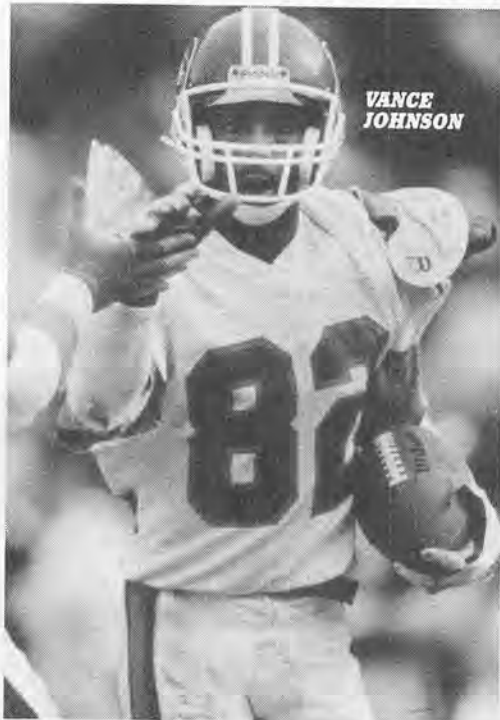
The departure of Perry, a quality tackle, was painful. Darrell Hamilton replaced him late last year. Ken Lanier is the right tackle with the Widdell brothers, Dave and Doug, at the guards. Keith Kartz is a dependable center. Jim Juriga could come off the injured list to reclaim a starting position. Veteran guard Crawford Ker arrived from Dallas in Plan B. Sean Farrell, acquired from New England, could help at guard.

It is on defense where major changes are needed. One already has been made. There was an experiment with Karl Mecklenburg as an outside linebacker, but it kept him out of his accustomed heavy action. Mecklenburg is back inside. The idea is to increase the pass-rush pressure. Mecklenburg had just five sacks, low for him. Outside linebacker Simon Fletcher led the team with 11 and forced four fumbles. Fletcher's new partner on the outside could be Jeff Mills, who flopped in San Diego as a rookie, although No. 1 draftee Mike Croel of Nebraska may be ready immediately. Michael Brooks led the team with 175 tackles from his inside position. The draft also brought one of the major development projects, monster inside linebacker Keith Traylor of Central Oklahoma State. End Warren Powers played soundly in his second pro season, but veteran Ron Holmes was a letdown. Greg Kragen, as usual, was a bulldog at nose tackle.

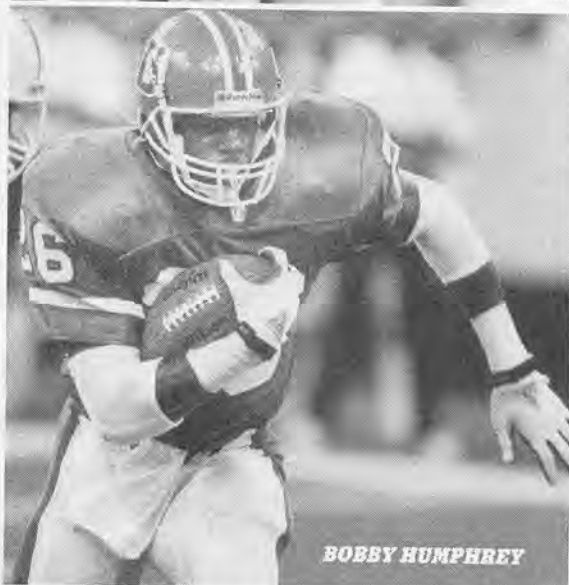
The safety positions are the best-fortified defensive areas. Both free safety Steve Atwater and strong safety Dennis Smith were

elected to the Pro Bowl. Atwater, one of the league's premier hitters had 173 tackles; Smith had 110. The Broncos intercepted only 10 passes and they remain known as a team with major cornerback problems, yet they didn't draft a defensive back. Alton Montgomery, who as a rookie established a reputation as a hitter in the Atwater-Smith mold, could contend for a corner job. Wymon Henderson and Randy Robbins are the incumbents. Charles Dimry, who struggled with Atlanta, arrives via Plan B.

Punter Mike Horan averaged 44.4 yards and David Treadwell was 25-for-34 on field goals. Kevin Clark led the NFL in kickoff returns with a 25.3-yard average and was adequate on punt returns.



VANCE JOHNSON



BOBBY HUMPHREY



MELVIN BRATTON

BRONCOS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
27	Atwater, Steve	S	6-3	213	25	Arkansas
64	Beavers, Scott	OL	6-4	277	24	Georgia Tech
32	Bratton, Melvin	RB	6-1	225	26	Miami
34	Braxton, Tyrone	CB	5-11	185	27	No. Dakota St.
50	Brooks, Michael	LB	6-1	235	27	LSU
92	Carreker, Alphonso	DE	6-6	272	29	Florida State
20	Clark, Kevin	DB	5-10	185	27	San Jose St.
25	Carrington, Kip	S	6-0	175	26	Texas A&M
58	Curtis, Scott	LB	6-1	230	27	New Hampshire
62	Davidson, Jeff	C	6-5	309	24	Ohio State
55	Dennison, Rick	LB	6-3	220	33	Colorado St.
	Dimry, Charles	CB	6-0	175	25	UNLV
7	Elway, John	QB	6-3	215	31	Stanford
35	Ezor, Blake	RB	5-9	183	25	Michigan State
63	Farrell, Sean	OG	6-3	260	31	Penn State
73	Fletcher, Simon	LB	6-5	240	29	Houston
99	Galloway, David	DE	6-3	265	32	Florida
	Green, Gaston	RB	5-11	192	25	UCLA
87	Green, Paul	TE	6-3	230	25	Southern Cal
93	Haliburton, Ronnie	LB	6-4	230	23	LSU
69	Hamilton, Darrell	T	6-5	298	26	North Carolina
24	Henderson, Wymon	CB	5-9	186	30	UNLV
90	Holmes, Ron	DE	6-4	265	28	Washington
2	Horan, Mike	P	5-11	190	32	Long Beach St.
26	Humphrey, Bobby	RB	6-1	201	25	Alabama
80	Jackson, Mark	WR	5-9	180	28	Purdue
82	Johnson, Vance	WR	5-11	185	26	Arizona
66	Juriga, Jim	OL	6-6	275	27	Illinois
72	Kartz, Keith	C	6-4	270	28	California
88	Kay, Clarence	TE	6-2	237	30	Georgia
	Ker, Crawford	G	6-3	285	29	Florida
71	Kragen, Greg	NT	6-3	265	29	Utah State
8	Kubiak, Gary	QB	6-0	192	30	Texas A&M
21	Lang, Le-Lo	DB	5-11	185	24	Washington
76	Lanier, Ken	T	6-3	290	32	Florida St.
59	Lucas, Tim	LB	6-3	230	30	California
77	Mecklenburg, Karl	LB	6-3	240	31	Minnesota
52	Mills, Jeff	LB	6-3	238	23	Nebraska
22	Montgomery, Alton	DB	6-0	195	23	Houston
84	Nattiel, Ricky	WR	5-9	180	25	Florida
75	Parkinson, Brent	OL	6-5	267	24	Southern Cal
	Perryman, Robert	RB	6-2	233	27	Michigan
91	Powers, Warren	DE	6-6	287	26	Maryland
48	Robbins, Randy	S	6-2	189	29	Arizona
30	Sewell, Steve	RB	6-3	210	28	Oklahoma
81	Sharpe, Shannon	WR	6-2	225	23	Savannah St.
49	Smith, Dennis	S	6-3	200	32	Southern Cal
65	Smith, Monte	G	6-4	270	24	North Dakota
85	Stallworth, Tim	WR	5-10	185	25	Washington St.
94	Szymanski, Jim	DE	6-5	268	24	Michigan State
53	Thompson, Anthony	LB	6-1	227	24	East Carolina
61	Townsend, Andre	DL	6-3	265	29	Mississippi
9	Treadwell, David	K	6-1	175	24	Clemson
86	Verhulst, Chris	TE	6-2	249	25	Cal State-Chico
79	Widell, Dave	T	6-6	292	26	Boston College
67	Widell, Doug	G	6-4	287	25	Boston College
83	Young, Mike	WR	6-1	183	29	UCLA

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Croel, Mike	LB	6-2	231	Nebraska
2	Johnson, Reggie	TE	6-2	256	Florida State
3	Taylor, Keith	LB	6-2	260	Central St.
4	Russell, Derek	WR	6-0	179	Arkansas
5	Lewis, Greg	RB	5-11	210	Washington
6	Subis, Nick	T	6-5	278	San Diego St.
8	Walker, Kenny	DE	6-3	246	Nebraska
9	Gibson, Don	NT	6-3	250	Southern Cal
10	Mayfield, Curtis	WR	6-0	175	Oklahoma St.
11	Moore, Shawn	QB	6-2	215	Virginia

DAVE KRIEG

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

This is Chuck Knox's 19th season as an NFL head coach and his last team may have been his masterpiece, even though it didn't even qualify for the playoffs. Knox's most important assets are his flexibility, his ability to relate to players from any era, and, most important, his patience. Knox thought he was adjusting to the '90s when he opened with a version of the run-and-shoot offense. He lost his first three games. He also lost six linebackers to serious injury. His No. 1 draft choice, Cortez Kennedy, for whom he traded two first-rounders, didn't show up until the season began. The experts had relegated the Seahawks to the depths with New England and Cleveland.

Knox pulled out some of his famous clichés. His theme this time was "A man is not finished when he's defeated; he's finished when he quits." It worked. The turnaround game came in the middle of November in Kansas City. Derrick Thomas of the Chiefs broke the NFL record for sacks in a game by dumping Seattle quarterback Dave Krieg seven times. Nevertheless, on the last play, with Thomas hanging on his hips, Krieg threw a 25-yard touchdown pass to Paul Skansi to win. Norm Johnson, the place-kicker who lost an important game for the Seahawks, won two in a row with overtime kicks. Seattle went 6-2 in the second half of the season, beating Denver and Detroit in the last two weeks to finish 9-7.

James Jones, the veteran fullback who was a long-time starter for Detroit, was symbolic of what Knox gets out of his players. When injuries struck, Jones volunteered for special-team duty and led it in tackles, with 15, including five within the opposing 20-yard line. No Seahawk was picked for the Pro Bowl, for them almost a badge of team play.

Will the Seahawks win happily ever after? That depends on whether all of their injured stars return healthy, and whether Knox can

SEAHAWKS 1990 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Johnson, 102 points on 33 extra points and 23 field goals. . . 4th
RUSHING—Fenner, 859 yards on 215 carries, 4.0 avg., 14 TDs. . . 6th
PASSING—Krieg, 265 of 448 attempts for 3,194 yards and 15 TDs. . . 11th
RECEIVING—Williams, 73 for 699 yards, 9.6 average. . . 2nd
INTERCEPTIONS—Robinson, 3 for 89 yards, 29.7 average. . . 15th
PUNTING—Donnelly, 67 punts, 40.6 average, longest 54 yards. . . 6th
PUNT RETURNS—Warren, 28 for 269 yards, 9.6 average. . . 3rd
KICKOFF RETURNS—Warren, 23 for 478 yards, 20.8 average. . . 4th
SACKS—Green, 12.5 sacks. . . 15th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	3	PHOENIX (N)
	10	At Indianapolis (N)
	17	At L.A. Rams (N)
	23	SAN FRANCISCO (N)

1991 SCHEDULE

		1990 SCORES
September	1	At New Orleans . . . —
	8	NEW YORK JETS . . . —
	15	At Denver . . . 31-34
	22	At Kansas City . . . 17-16
	29	INDIANAPOLIS . . . —
October	6	At Cincinnati . . . 31-16
	13	LOS ANGELES RAIDERS (N) . . . 13-17
	20	At Pittsburgh . . . —
	27	SAN DIEGO . . . 14-31
November	3	OPEN DATE . . . —
	10	At San Diego . . . 13-10
	17	At Los Angeles Raiders . . . 17-24
	24	DENVER . . . 17-12
December	1	KANSAS CITY . . . 19-7
	8	SAN FRANCISCO . . . —
	15	At Atlanta . . . —
	22	LOS ANGELES RAMS (N) . . . —

GRANT FEASEL



coach another year out of his rebuilt defense with veteran coordinator Tom Catlin on the mend after a heart attack.

A few days after the Giants beat Buffalo in Super Bowl XXV, Bill Parcells phoned Knox. "I know you enjoyed the game," said Parcells, "because it was your kind of football."

Call it "Power Football" or "Ground Chuck." Knox is back winning with his familiar running attack. This time it is big Derrick Fenner combining with veteran fullback John L. Williams. It isn't a devastating attack. It averaged just 103 yards a game last year, but that's 14 yards better than the '89 average. Knox will work on improving it. His experiments with exotic attacks are over. Fenner carried the ball 215 times and gained 859 yards. His major asset, however, is that he is a smart bomb around the goal line. He led the AFC with 14 rushing touchdowns. Williams, who made his reputation as Curt Warner's blocker, added 714 yards. He also led the Seahawks in receptions, with 74, and finished second to Buffalo's Thurman Thomas as the AFC's total-yardage leader (1,413) and was voted the team's most valuable player.

If the power attack is to improve, some changes will have to be made in the offensive line. Young guard Darrick Brizl takes aim at Edgar Bailey's job. Knox had to protect 34-year-old tackle Ronnie Lee on Plan B even though Lee is slow and creaky. The set positions are center with Grant Feasel, tackle with Andy Heck, and guard with Bryan Millard.

Krieg goes unchallenged for now by default. Kelly Stouffer, for whom Seattle paid a high price, hasn't begun to cut it. Krieg threw for 3,194 yards and 15 touchdowns, but he gets intercepted too much (20 times last year) and he dropped the ball 16 times, including five times in an overtime victory against San Diego. Dan McGwire, drafted in the first round, will challenge Stouffer before he competes with Krieg.

The Seahawks need a speed receiver desperately. Of Krieg's 265 completions, 122 went to Williams, who averaged 9.6 yards per catch, and wide receiver Brian Blades, who averaged just 10.7. Tommy Kane, who blossomed in his third pro season, was the best threat, averaging 14.9 on his 52 catches. Jeff Chadwick tied with Kane for the most touchdown receptions, four, and averaged 17.7 on his 27 catches. Skansi is another possession receiver. Knox has to get a lot more out of Travis McNeal, who had a disappointing season. Track man Doug Thomas of Clemson has immediate prospects as a kick-returner, but his future as a wide receiver is long-range. David Daniels of Penn State needs work, too.

Despite all its injuries and age, the defense set Seattle 16-game records for fewest net yards allowed, 4,609; fewest plays, 950; fewest net rushing yards, 1,605; and fewest rushing plays, 413. The defense also allowed 41 fewer points it did in '89. Still, it needs freshening. That started last year with the insertion of Kennedy and later Eric Hayes in the line. Kennedy had only one sack, but he played so well against the run late in the season that he began to get double-team blocking. The sack master is still 34-year-old Jacob Green, with 12½. He also forced three fumbles. Jeff Bryant and Joe Nash remain available. Tony Woods, successfully converted from linebacker to end, returns from the injured list.

Linebacker David Wyman returned to the lineup in the second half of the season and recorded 48 tackles. Rufus Porter leads a parade of linebackers out of sick bay. Knox has high hopes for youngsters such as Richard Newbill, Joe Cain, and especially Terry Wood-

en, who was an instant starter as a rookie but then suffered a knee injury with a month to go.

With all the linebackers hurt, Seattle's top three tacklers were defensive backs. Safeties Nesby Glasgow and Eugene Robinson had 83 and 82, respectively, and cornerback Dwayne Harper 71. Corner Patrick Hunter had 56. There will be challenges this year from ex-Raider safety Vann McElroy and ex-Redskin cornerback Brian Davis.

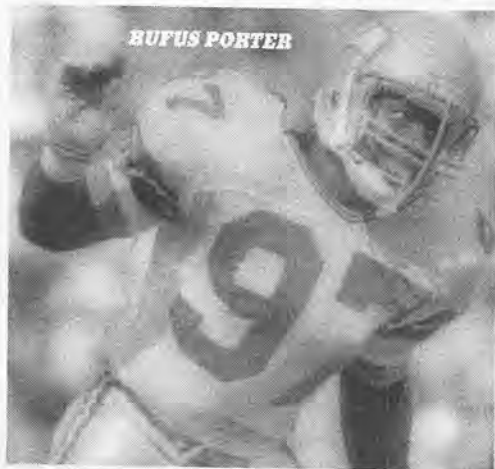
The return game got a lift from king-sized rookie Chris Warren, who also has strong possibilities as a ball-carrier. The kicking is just average with Johnson and punter Rick Donnelly, but Georgia's John Kasay has the long-distance oomph to push Johnson.

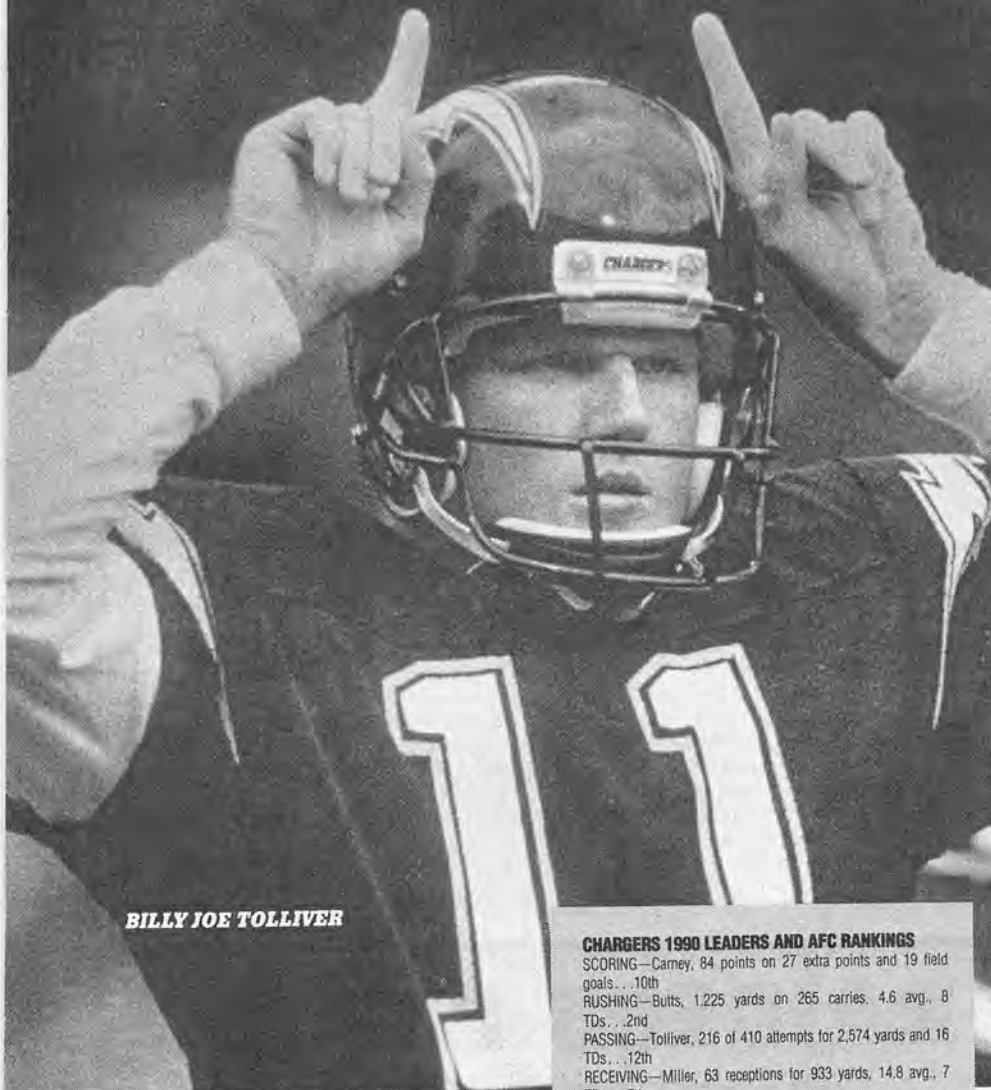
SEAHAWKS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
50	Ahrens, Dave	LB	6-4	247	33	Wisconsin
52	Andrews, Ricky	LB	6-2	236	25	Washington
65	Bailey, Edwin	G	6-4	279	32	S.C. St.
25	Blackmon, Robert	S	6-0	198	24	Baylor
89	Blades, Brian	WR	5-11	191	26	Miami
64	Brizl, Darrick	G	6-3	281	27	Oregon State
77	Bryant, Jeff	DT	6-5	281	31	Clemson
59	Cain, Joe	LB	6-1	233	26	Oregon Tech
88	Chadwick, Jeff	WR	6-3	189	31	Grand Valley
44	Clark, Louis	WR	6-0	198	27	Mississippi St.
52	Comerio, Darren	LB	6-1	239	31	Arizona State
55	Cotton, Marcus	LB	6-3	237	25	Southern Cal
34	Davis, Brian	CB	6-2	190	28	Nebraska
3	Donnelly, Rick	P	6-0	203	29	Wyoming
75	Dyko, Chris	T	6-6	296	25	Washington St.
54	Feasel, Grant	C	6-7	279	31	Abilene Christian
44	Fenner, Derrick	RB	6-3	228	24	North Carolina
7	Ford, John	WR	6-2	204	25	Virginia
22	Glasgow, Nesby	S	5-10	187	34	Washington
79	Green, Jacob	DE	6-3	256	34	Texas A&M
29	Harper, Dwayne	CB	5-11	174	25	S.C. St.
78	Hayes, Eric	DT	6-3	297	24	Florida State
66	Heck, Andy	T	6-6	286	24	Notre Dame
85	Heller, Ron	TE	6-3	242	28	Oregon State
76	Hitchcock, Bill	T	6-6	308	26	Purdue
27	Hunter, Patrick	CB	5-11	186	27	Nevada-Reno
26	Jefferson, James	CB	6-1	199	28	Texas A&I
9	Johnson, Norm	K	6-2	203	31	UCLA
30	Jones, James	FB	6-2	232	30	Florida
83	Junkin, Trey	TE	6-2	240	30	Louisiana Tech
81	Kane, Tommy	WR	5-11	181	27	Syracuse
15	Kemp, Jeff	QB	6-0	201	32	Dartmouth
96	Kennedy, Cortez	DT	6-3	293	23	Miami
17	Krieg, Dave	QB	6-1	192	33	Milton
63	Lee, Ronnie	T	6-3	295	35	Baylor
20	Loville, Derek	RB	5-9	196	23	Oregon
31	McElroy, Vann	S	6-2	190	31	Baylor
86	McNeal, Travis	TE	6-3	244	24	UT-Chattanooga
71	Millard, Bryan	G	6-5	277	31	Texas
99	Miller, Donald	LB	6-2	223	27	Idaho State
95	Morris, Robert	DE	6-6	279	23	Valdosta St.
72	Nash, Joe	DT	6-3	278	31	Boston College
58	Newbill, Richard	LB	6-1	240	23	Miami
97	Porter, Rufus	LB	6-1	226	26	Southern
41	Robinson, Eugene	S	6-0	190	28	Colgate
73	Singer, Curt	T	6-5	292	30	Tennessee
82	Skansi, Paul	WR	5-11	187	30	Washington
94	Stephens, Rod	LB	6-1	237	25	Georgia Tech
11	Stouffer, Kelly	QB	6-3	207	27	Colorado St.
23	Thompson, Kevin	S	5-10	190	25	Oklahoma
87	Tice, Mike	TE	6-7	247	32	Maryland
56	Tofflemire, Joe	C	6-2	273	26	Arizona
42	Warren, Chris	RB	6-2	225	24	Ferrum
74	Wheat, Warren	G	6-6	274	24	BYU
32	Williams, John L.	FB	5-11	231	27	Florida
90	Wooden, Terry	LB	6-3	232	24	Syracuse
57	Woods, Tony	DE	6-4	269	26	Pittsburgh
92	Wyman, David	LB	6-2	250	27	Stanford

DRAFTTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	McGwire, Dan	QB	6-8	243	San Diego St.
2	Thomas, Doug	WR	5-10	177	Clemson
3	Daniels, David	WR	6-1	192	Penn State
4	Kasay, John	K	5-10	180	Georgia
5	Davis, Harlan	DB	6-0	196	Tennessee
6	Sinclair, Mike	DE	6-4	245	E. New Mexico
10	Ringo, Erik	LB	6-3	235	Hofstra
11	Stewart, Tony	RB	6-0	200	Iowa
12	Harris, Ike	G	6-4	275	South Carolina





BILLY JOE TOLLIVER

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

The Chargers are getting better, yet the improvement comes slowly and with a large dose of rationalization. "We were competitive in every one of our games last year," said general manager Bobby Beathard. You hear that theme a lot around Chargerland. The won-lost record still read 6-10. Competitive is getting a little old. San Diego won six games in 1989 and in 1988.

Beathard, in his first season as the team's GM, made significant progress in an important area. He got owner Alex Spanos, a hair-trigger conclusion-jumper, to have some patience. That is why Dan Henning is still coaching the Chargers.

Significant improvement on the field, which means at least an 8-8 record, will not be easy considering the San Diego quarterback situation. Billy Joe Tolliver was yanked from the lineup in the final game of the season. The idea was to take a serious look at John Friesz, who was a sixth-round rookie. It wasn't encouraging. Henning announced after the season that Tolliver was his guy for 1991. "My preference," explained the coach, "is to have a starter—a guy we think we can win with—and a guy who could back up and have the temperament not to be a problem child." Tolliver has a cannon for an arm, but he has trouble locating the strike zone. He also has other flaws. But what are the alternatives?

CHARGERS 1990 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Carney, 84 points on 27 extra points and 19 field goals. . . 10th
RUSHING—Butts, 1,225 yards on 265 carries, 4.6 avg., 8 TDs. . . 2nd
PASSING—Tolliver, 216 of 410 attempts for 2,574 yards and 16 TDs. . . 12th
RECEIVING—Miller, 63 receptions for 933 yards, 14.8 avg., 7 TDs. . . 7th
INTERCEPTIONS—Byrd, 7 for 63 yards, 9.0 average. . . 2nd
PUNTING—Kidd, 61 punts, 40.0 average, longest 59 yards. . . 8th
PUNT RETURNS—Lewis, 13 for 117 yards, 9.0 average, 1 TD. . . unranked
KICKOFF RETURNS—Elder, 24 for 571 yards, 23.8 average. . . 2nd
SACKS—O'Neal, 13.5 sacks. . . 3rd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	3	HOUSTON (N)
	12	At L.A. Rams (N)
	19	At San Francisco (N)
	23	L.A. RAIDERS (N)

1991 SCHEDULE

		1990 SCORES
September	1	At Pittsburgh..... 14-36
	8	At San Francisco..... —
	15	ATLANTA..... —
	22	At Denver..... 10-20
	29	KANSAS CITY..... 21-24
October	6	At Los Angeles Raiders..... 12-17
	13	At Los Angeles Rams..... —
	20	CLEVELAND..... 24-17
	27	At Seattle..... 31-14
November	3	OPEN DATE..... —
	10	SEATTLE..... 10-13
	17	NEW ORLEANS..... —
	24	At New York Jets..... 38-17
December	1	LOS ANGELES RAIDERS (N)..... 9-24
	8	At Kansas City..... 10-27
	15	MIAMI..... —
	22	DENVER..... 19-7

It might behoove Henning to continue exploring alternatives, since Spanos and Beathard both have serious reservations about Billy Joe. Henning admits that. "Mr. Spanos has been pointedly disappointed at times and Mr. Beathard feels there are things about Tolliver that may be uncorrectable," said Henning. "I

CHARGERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
44	Bayless, Martin	SS	6-2	212	29	Bowling Green
82	Bernstine, Rod	TE	6-3	238	26	Texas A&M
90	Brown, Richard	LB	6-3	240	26	San Diego St.
35	Butts, Marion	RB	6-1	248	25	Florida State
22	Byrd, Gill	CB	5-11	198	30	San Jose St.
46	Caravello, Joe	HB	6-3	262	28	Tulane
3	Carney, John	K	5-11	170	27	Notre Dame
63	Cornish, Frank	C	6-4	295	24	UCLA
88	Cox, Arthur	TE	6-2	277	30	Texas Southern
87	Early, Quinn	WR	6-0	190	26	Iowa
28	Elder, Donnie	CB	5-9	178	28	Memphis State
51	Figaro, Cedric	ILB	6-2	250	25	Notre Dame
61	Floyd, Eric	G	6-5	300	26	Auburn
27	Frank, Donald	CB	6-0	200	26	Winston-Salem
17	Friesz, John	QB	6-4	209	24	Idaho
	Gagliano, Bob	QB	6-3	196	33	Utah State
67	Goeas, Leo	T	6-4	285	25	Hawaii
92	Grossman, Burt	DE	6-4	255	24	Pittsburgh
53	Hall, Courtney	C	6-1	269	23	Rice
33	Harmon, Ronnie	RB	5-11	200	27	Iowa
86	Heard, Ron	WR	5-10	180	24	Bowling Green
34	Hendrickson, Steve	DB	6-0	250	25	California
97	Hinkle, George	DE	6-5	269	26	Arizona
	Humphrey, Bobby	CB	5-10	180	30	New Mexico St.
10	Kidd, John	P	6-3	208	30	Northwestern
	Kyles, Troy	WR	6-0	180	23	Howard
24	Lyles, Lester	SS	6-3	200	29	Virginia
81	Lewis, Nate	WR	5-11	189	25	Oregon Tech
26	Lilly, Sammy	CB	5-9	175	26	Georgia Tech
	May, Mark	G	6-6	295	32	Pittsburgh
31	McEwen, Craig	HB	6-1	220	26	Utah
36	Mickles, Joe	RB	5-10	221	26	Mississippi
83	Miller, Anthony	WR	5-11	185	26	Tennessee
69	Miller, Les	NT	6-7	293	26	Ft. Hayes State
20	Nelson, Darrin	RB	5-9	185	32	Stanford
91	O'Neal, Leslie	OLB	6-4	259	27	Oklahoma St.
37	Orr, Terry	HB	6-2	235	30	Texas
78	Patten, Joel	T	6-7	307	33	Duke
75	Phillips, Joe	NT	6-5	275	26	SMU
50	Plummer, Gary	ILB	6-2	240	31	California
	Radachowsky, George	S	5-11	195	29	Boston College
65	Richards, David	OL	6-4	310	25	UCLA
98	Robinson, Gerald	DE	6-3	262	28	Auburn
64	Rodenhuaser, Mark	C	6-5	263	30	Illinois State
57	Rolling, Henry	OLB	6-2	225	26	Nevada-Reno
79	Savage, Tony	NT	6-3	300	24	Washington St.
30	Seale, Sam	CB	5-9	185	29	Western State
55	Seau, Junior	LB	6-3	243	22	Southern Cal
23	Shelton, Anthony	CB	6-1	195	24	Tennessee St.
68	Simmonds, Mike	G	6-4	295	27	Indiana State
54	Smith, Billy Ray	OLB	6-3	236	30	Arkansas
43	Spencer, Tim	RB	6-1	223	31	Ohio State
85	Thaxton, Kitrick	WR	5-11	191	27	Washington St.
	Thaxton, Galand	LB	6-1	242	27	Wyoming
76	Thompson, Broderick	OL	6-4	295	31	Kansas
76	Tolliver, Billy Joe	QB	6-1	218	25	Texas Tech
13	Vlasic, Mark	DB	6-3	206	28	Iowa
89	Walker, Derrick	TE	6-5	244	24	Michigan
80	Walker, Wayne	WR	5-8	162	25	Texas Tech
99	Williams, Lee	DE	6-5	271	29	Beth-Cookman
84	Wilson, Waller	WR	5-10	185	25	East Carolina
70	Zandotsky, Mike	G	6-2	285	26	Washington

DRAFTTEES

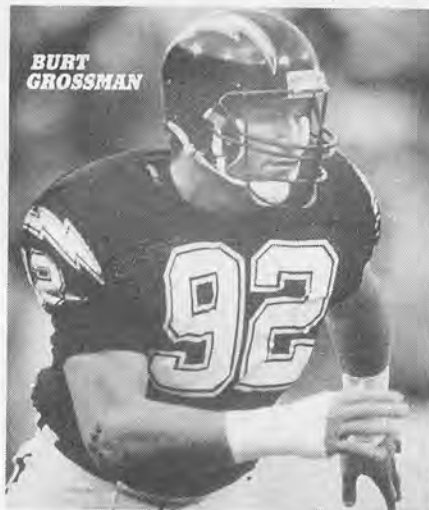
rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Richard, Stanley	S	6-1	199	Texas
2	Thornlon, George	DT	6-3	301	Alabama
2	Bieniemy, Eric	RB	5-7	208	Colorado
4	Moten, Eric	G	6-3	302	Michigan State
4	Thigpen, Yancey	WR	6-0	207	Winston-Salem
5	Young, Duane	TE	6-2	256	Michigan State
5	Fields, Floyd	DB	6-2	208	Arizona State
6	Laister, Jimmy	T	6-4	300	Oregon Tech
7	Jones, David	WR	6-3	215	Delaware State
7	Beauford, Terry	OL	6-2	290	Florida
9	Kaloo, Andy	LB	6-2	238	S. Oregon
10	Poles, Roland	RB	6-1	251	Tennessee
10	Heldt, Mike	C	6-2	285	Notre Dame
11	Heinberg, Joachim	WR	6-1	180	Johnson C. Smith
12	Samuels, Chris	RB	5-10	200	Texas

don't agree with all those things. I do agree I've been disappointed in Tolliver at times, and I think there are things that have to be corrected. But I think they are correctable. I'd have to be given an executive order to play musical chairs with the quarterbacks. I don't believe in it. I look at the alternatives and I believe we have a chance to win with Tolliver."

Keep looking, Dan. Coaches who are 6-10 over the last three seasons are not in a strong position to argue with the owner. Tolliver's rating of 68.9 was higher than only two AFC quarterbacks last year: Bernie Kosar of Cleveland and Marc Wilson of New England.

Some observers feel that San Diego is a team that only has to fine-tune its defense in order to field a contender. Wrong. The Chargers have some outstanding defensive talent, but they also have some gaping holes around the studs. Not only that, but some of the best defenders bicker among themselves. There was a nasty name-calling dispute between linebacker Leslie O'Neal and defensive end Burt Grossman last year. Henning admits that the defense is an area that he hopes to shake up. One of the major nags is that linebacker Billy Ray Smith, once the team's best defensive player, has declined. Slowed by injuries the last three years, he finished 1990 as a part-time player.

"I think we have to change the chemistry of the defense," admitted Henning. "We also have to make personnel changes in certain spots. The defense probably reflects our record as much as anything. When they've been



BURT GROSSMAN



NATE LEWIS

good, they've been very, very good. When we get into those situations where the matchups aren't in our favor, we haven't been bad but we haven't been good." Sounds like a 6-10 team that lost five of its last six.

The good news for the Chargers is Marion Butts and Anthony Miller. Butts, who as a rookie established himself as a formidable blocker and short-yardage specialist, was a 1,225-yard rusher as a sophomore. He ended up as a Pro Bowl starter. With Butts as the catalyst, the Chargers increased their average rushing output by 24 yards per game. Colorado's

quick Eric Bieniemy, taken in the second round of the last draft, should offer a change of pace from Butts.

The swift Miller, one of the class receivers in the game, caught 63 passes for seven touchdowns, a 14.8-yard average, and a place in the AFC's starting Pro Bowl lineup. Miller's accomplishments were particularly noteworthy in that San Diego doesn't have another wide receiver worth mentioning. Third-down back Ronnie Harmon, a Plan B acquisition, finished second in receiving, with 46 catches. Incumbent tight end Arthur Cox, who expanded to



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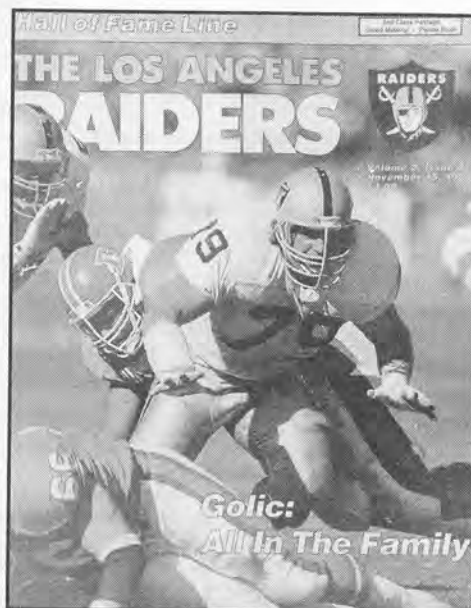
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the size of a quartet during the season, is symbolic of the current attitude on the Chargers. If Cox reports over 275 pounds this season, Henning said, "I don't want him. That will not be tolerated again."

The offensive line was radically changed a year ago. The only man kept in his old job was right guard Dave Richards. Courtney Hall, the all-rookie center the season before, became the starting left guard and tackle Broderick Thompson was named offensive captain. Two rookies, center Frank Cornish and left tackle Leo Goeas, also started. The new line helped account for the improvement in the running game and cut the sacks-allowed total from 39 to 20, although the new emphasis on the run contributed some to that. Michigan State guard Eric Moten, a second-round draftee, looks like a 10-year pro.

On the surface, the defense does some mighty things. Opponents were limited to an average of just 94.7 yards on the ground and the pass rushers recorded 45 sacks. Only four AFC teams yielded fewer points than the Chargers' 281. Yet the "D" sagged noticeably in the fourth quarter. Lee Williams, one of the NFL's top pass rushers, slipped from 14 sacks in 1989 to 7½ last year, but Grossman had his second straight 10-sack season. Nose tackle Joe Phillips was lost for the season when he was beaten up and suffered head injuries in an incident outside a San Diego night spot. Alabama tackle George Thornton was the first of the club's three second-round draft picks.

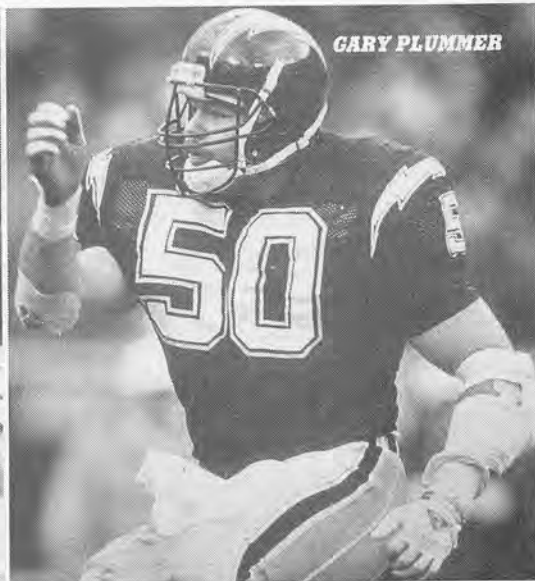
Despite all the high-profile linebackers, unheralded inside man Gary Plummer might have had the best season of any. He was involved in a career-high 146 tackles, the second year in a row that he's led the team. Junior Seau, the prize rookie, didn't report until the day before the opening game. Considering what he did in the last half of the season, Seau could be an impact player. O'Neal was fingered as a selfish player by Henning, but he

led the team with 13½ sacks and made the Pro Bowl. Henning has to find a role for Smith.

Veteran cornerback Gill Byrd, who had seven interceptions, is the only stable defensive back. Free safety Vencie Glenn went to the Raiders in Plan B and strong safety Martin Bayless is on the purge list. Corner Sammy Seale is valued for his speed. Beathard addressed the situation by taking Texas safety Stanley Richards with his first pick in the draft.



ERIC BIENIEMY



GARY PLUMMER



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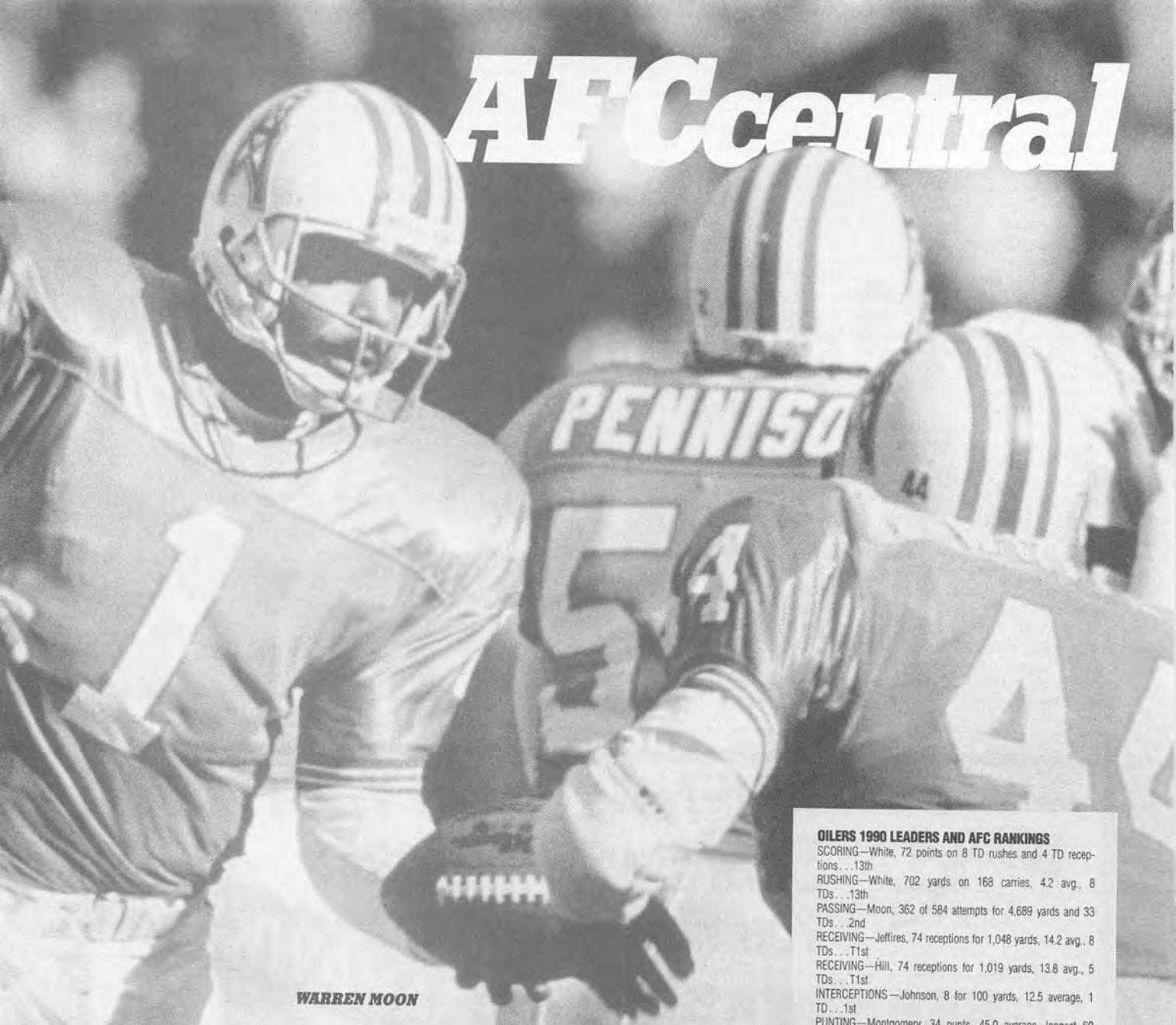
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AFCcentral



WARREN MOON

HOUSTON OILERS

Cody Carlson may be as symbolic of the Oilers as anyone. In the final game of the regular season, he replaced the injured Warren Moon at quarterback and passed holes in Pittsburgh to put the Oilers into the playoffs. The next week he self-destructed against Cincinnati in the playoffs. That's the Oilers: at times brilliant, at times exasperating.

Jack Pardee installed the run-and-shoot offense in his first season as Oiler head coach and no one in the AFC is too sure how to stop it. What stopped the Oilers most of the time was themselves. They fumbled away the ball 21 times. They were so heavily penalized, they finished 139 yards ahead of the No. 2 culprits. The Oilers don't react to stress very well, either. They were involved in five games where the margin of victory was five points or less. They won only one of those, over AFC champion Buffalo, strangely enough, in a Monday night game. Houston also remains a different team on the road, where it was 3-5.

Still, the Oilers should remain among the AFC's best, assuming Pardee stabilizes matters in his second season. For starters, quarterback Warren Moon, at age 35, seems to be at the top of his game. Obviously, the run-and-shoot agrees with Moon. There were predictions that he might not survive in an attack that carries high risks for its quarterbacks. But not only did Moon survive, he thrived with the greatest year of his career—more than 4,000 yards passing and a record-tying nine 300-yard games. He broke the thumb on his throwing hand in the next-to-last game, but that came from hitting it on someone's helmet, not from pass-rush abuse.

Houston had the most productive offense in the NFL. Of its 388-yard per-game average, 300 came through the air. Four Oiler receivers finished among the AFC's top seven. Haywood Jeffries and Drew Hill tied for first with 74 catches, Ernest Givins finished fourth with 72, and Curtis Duncan seventh with 66. Jeffries produced 1,048 yards and eight

OILERS 1990 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—White, 72 points on 8 TD rushes and 4 TD receptions...13th
RUSHING—White, 702 yards on 168 carries, 4.2 avg., 8 TDs...13th
PASSING—Moon, 362 of 584 attempts for 4,689 yards and 33 TDs...2nd
RECEIVING—Jeffries, 74 receptions for 1,048 yards, 14.2 avg., 8 TDs...1st
RECEIVING—Hill, 74 receptions for 1,019 yards, 13.6 avg., 5 TDs...1st
INTERCEPTIONS—Johnson, 8 for 100 yards, 12.5 average, 1 TD...1st
PUNTING—Montgomery, 34 punts, 45.0 average, longest 60 yards...unranked
PUNT RETURNS—McNeil, 30 for 172 yards, 5.7 average...8th
KICKOFF RETURNS—McNeil, 27 for 551 yards, 20.4 average...7th
SACKS—Jones, 12.5 sacks...15th

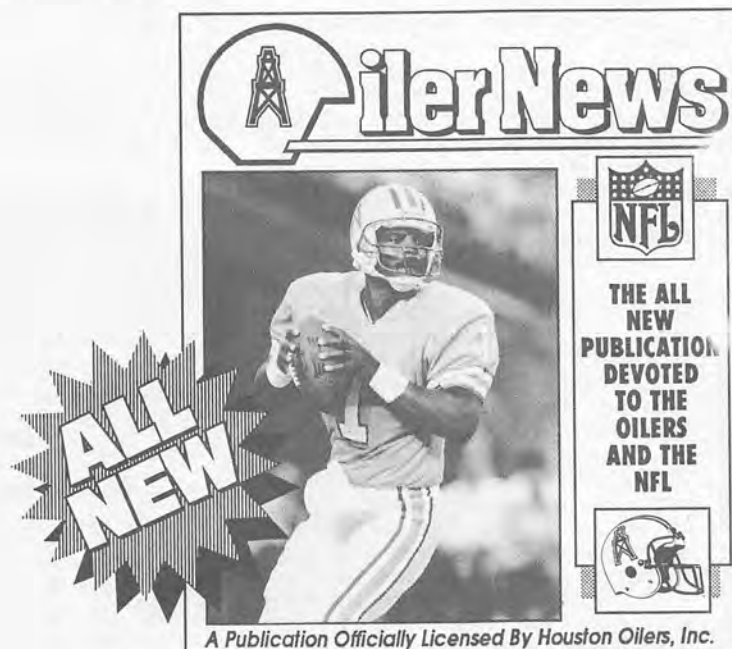
PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	3	At San Diego (N)
	9	ATLANTA (N)
	18	DALLAS (N)
	22	L.A. Rams at Memphis, TN (N)

1991 SCHEDULE

		1990 SCORES
September	1	LOS ANGELES RAIDERS.....
	8	At Cincinnati (N).....20-40
	16	KANSAS CITY (N).....27-10
	22	At New England.....
	29	OPEN DATE.....
October	6	DENVER.....
	13	At New York Jets.....12-17
	20	At Miami.....
	27	CINCINNATI.....48-17
November	3	At Washington.....
	10	DALLAS.....
	17	CLEVELAND (N).....58-14
	24	At Pittsburgh.....9-20
December	2	PHILADELPHIA (N).....
	8	PITTSBURGH.....34-14
	15	At Cleveland.....35-23
	21	At New York Giants.....

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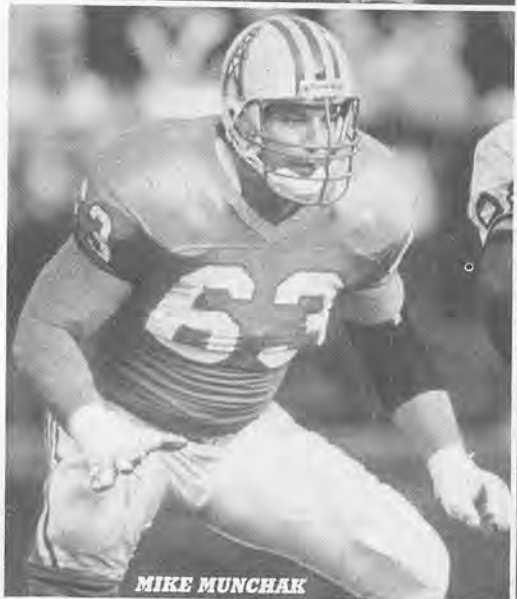
touchdowns, Hill 1,019 yards and five TDs, and Givins 979 yards and nine TDs. Eight different Oilers caught touchdown passes. Since there are no tight ends in the run-and-shoot, there must be an endless supply of wide receivers. That is why long-time Patriot Cedric Jones and Detroit water bug Richard Johnson were signed as Plan B free agents. Johnson caught 64 passes, including six for touchdowns, at Detroit. Of the 30 passes caught by reserve Tony Jones, the tiny rookie, six were for touchdowns.

The running game, what there is of it, consists of Lorenzo White. Operating from the one-back set, White carried the ball almost three times as much as backup Allen Pinkett. White gained 702 yards and averaged 4.2 yards per carry. Never known as a receiver, White has to perform that chore in the run-and-shoot. His 39 catches were the most by an Oiler back in five years. But he needs to become a better blocker.

Pardee made a move to improve the running game late in the year by moving Bruce



ERNEST GIVINS



MIKE MUNCHAK

Matthews, one of the NFL's best linemen, from guard to center. Guard Mike Munchak went to his sixth Pro Bowl; Dean Steinkuhler challenges Doug Dawson at right guard. The work of tackles Don Maggs and David Williams is not up to that of the other starters, but Maggs had one distinction: He was penalized only once all season. Center John Flannery of Syracuse and tackle Kevin Donnalley of North Carolina were added in the draft.

Defensively, Pardee has to start using his kids. The Oilers relied too much on stop-gap veterans last season. Second-year guys Jeff Alm and Willis Peguese have to fill in the blanks around all-pro Ray Childress and Sean Jones in the line. Jones had 12½ sacks and Childress had eight, as did pass-rush specialist William Fuller. Alm has a wingspan like Big Bird's, an asset that could bother quarterbacks if channeled correctly.

Last year's No. 1 pick, linebacker Lamar Lathon, was bothered by injuries and played inconsequential football until the final regular-season game, when he starred in an upset of Pittsburgh. Lathon underwent shoulder surgery during the offseason and should be a force as the strongside linebacker this year. Al Smith, who led the team in tackles, likely will move over to replace middle linebacker John Grimsley, who was traded to Miami. Weakside backer Johnny Meads led the team in forced fumbles, was second in tackles, and was named NFL player of the week after a 14-tackle game against the Saints.

The stickouts in the secondary are strong safety Bubba McDowell, who is especially sound against the run, and cornerback Richard Johnson, who led the AFC with eight interceptions. Cris Dishman is still erratic on the other corner and Terry Kinard offered temporary help at free safety. John Hagy, a part-time starter at safety for Buffalo, was signed as a Plan B free agent. Three of the Oilers' first four draftees were defensive backs. Safety Mike Dumas of Indiana looks like a sure starter. Darryl Lewis was a big-play man at Arizona, and Steve Jackson ran down Rocket Ismail last year for Purdue.

The run-and-shoot keeps the ball moving and led to a nickname, the "Maytag Repairman," for punter Greg Montgomery. He's sel-

dom used. Montgomery's average, 45 yards per punt, broke the Oilers' 25-year-old record, but he kicked only 34 times, six short of the minimum to qualify for the NFL punting championship. Teddy Garcia was successful on 12 of his last 16 field goals and three of his six overall misses were from 50 yards or beyond. Yet he could lose his job. Tony Zendejas, returning from the injury list, was perfect on his first six kicks of the season and was closing in on George Blanda's club scoring record when he suffered a broken leg. He's fine now. Ice Cube McNeil, an expensive free-agent signee who was supposed to upgrade the return game, averaged just 5.7 yards on punt returns and 20.4 on kickoffs.

OILERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht	wt	age	college
76	Alm, Jeff	DT	6-6	269	23	Notre Dame
97	Banks, Robert	DL	6-5	260	28	Notre Dame
37	Bergeson, Eric	S	5-11	192	25	BYU
14	Carlson, Cody	QB	6-3	202	28	Baylor
79	Childress, Ray	DL	6-6	272	29	Texas A&M
66	Dawson, Doug	OL	6-3	288	30	Texas
28	Dishman, Cris	CB	6-0	178	26	Purdue
80	Dunneah, Curtis	WR	5-11	184	26	Northwestern
51	Fairs, Eric	LB	6-3	244	27	Memphis State
88	Ford, Bernard	WR	5-10	171	25	Central Florida
95	Fuller, William	DE	6-3	265	29	North Carolina
8	Garcia, Teddy	PK	5-9	172	27	NE Louisiana
81	Givins, Ernest	WR	5-9	172	27	Louisville
93	Graf, Rick	LB	6-5	250	28	Wisconsin
22	Hagy, John	S	6-0	190	26	Texas
83	Harris, Leonard	WR	5-8	162	31	Texas Tech
85	Hill, Drew	WR	5-9	172	35	Georgia Tech
84	Jeffries, Haywood	WR	6-2	201	27	N.C. St.
90	Johnson, Ezra	DE	6-4	257	36	Morris Brown
23	Johnson, Richard	CB	6-1	195	28	Wisconsin
87	Johnson, Richard L.	WR	5-8	182	30	Colorado
86	Jones, Cedric	WR	6-1	184	31	Duke
96	Jones, Sean	DE	6-7	264	29	Northeastern
82	Jones, Tony	WR	5-7	139	26	Texas
32	Jordan, Tony	RB	6-2	220	26	Kansas State
27	Kinard, Terry	S	6-1	198	32	Clemson
21	Knight, Leander	DB	6-1	192	28	Montclair State
56	Kozak, Scott	LB	6-3	222	26	Oregon
57	Lathon, Lamar	LB	6-3	244	24	Houston
78	Maggs, Don	OL	6-5	290	30	Tulane
74	Matthews, Bruce	OL	6-5	291	30	Southern Cal
25	McDowell, Bubba	S	6-1	198	25	Miami
89	McNeil, Gerald	WR	5-8	142	29	Baylor
91	Meads, Johnny	LB	6-2	226	30	Nicholls State
94	Montgomery, Glenn	DT	6-0	268	24	Houston
9	Montgomery, Greg	P	6-4	215	27	Michigan State
1	Moon, Warren	QB	6-3	212	35	Washington
63	Munchak, Mike	G	6-3	284	31	Penn State
64	Norgard, Eric	OL	6-1	278	26	Colorado
26	Orlando, Bo	S	5-10	180	25	West Virginia
72	Peguese, Willis	DE	6-4	267	25	Miami
52	Pennison, Jay	C	6-1	274	30	Nicholls State
20	Pinkett, Allen	RB	5-9	196	27	Notre Dame
31	Porter, Kerry	RB	6-1	220	27	Washington St.
53	Seale, Eugene	LB	5-10	253	27	Lamar
10	Stack, Reggie	QB	6-1	221	23	Auburn
54	Smith, Al	LB	6-1	244	27	Utah State
99	Smith, Doug	DT	6-6	314	32	Auburn
70	Steinkuhler, Dean	T	6-3	287	30	Nebraska
68	Stewart, Alex	DE	6-4	260	27	Cal.-Fullerton
36	Thomas, Dee	DB	5-10	176	24	Nicholls St.
44	White, Lorenzo	RB	5-11	222	25	Michigan State
73	Williams, David	T	6-5	292	25	Florida

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos.	ht	wt	college
2	Dumas, Mike	DB	5-10	178	Indiana
2	Lewis, Darryl	DB	5-9	193	Arizona
2	Flannery, John	C	6-4	304	Syracuse
3	Jackson, Steve	DB	5-8	182	Purdue
3	Donnalley, Kevin	T	6-5	290	North Carolina
4	Rocker, David	DT	6-3	265	Auburn
4	Robertson, Marcus	DB	5-11	197	Iowa State
5	Wellman, Gary	WR	5-8	175	Southern Cal
7	Freeman, Kyle	LB	6-1	243	Angelo State
8	Brown, Gary	RB	5-9	208	Penn State
9	Jefferson, Shawn	WR	6-0	170	Central Florida
10	Moore, Curtis	LB	6-1	236	Kansas
11	Smith, James	DB	6-2	205	Richmond
12	Johnson, Alex	WR	5-9	167	Miami



RAY CHILDRESS

CINCINNATI BENGALS

This is supposed to be an off year for the Bengals. You can look it up. Since Sam Wyche became their head coach in 1984, the Bengals haven't had a winning season in an odd-numbered year. They usually do well in even-numbered years, yet they barely made it to a winning record in 1990. They needed an upset victory by a damaged Houston team over Pittsburgh to back into the Central title. What the Bengals must do to change their Wyche-era pattern is become much less erratic. That may be difficult, since football teams are supposed to reflect their coach. Wyche spent too much of his energy taking part in a running battle with commissioner Paul Tagliabue and warring over the presence of women reporters in his locker room.

After a 3-0 start in September, Cincinnati lost seven of its next 13 games. The Bengals didn't win two in a row again until the last couple of games in the season. They struggled on the road: They lost to teams they were supposed to beat: Seattle, Atlanta, New Orleans, and Indianapolis. Five times they gave up 31 points or more. "We can't go in with a 3-0 record and lose to an 0-3 team like Seattle was when they beat us," said star safety David Fulcher. "We have to win those games."

Since no one confuses the Cincinnati defense with the league powers in that category, the Bengals also have to play much better offensively than they did last year. They had a 44-point falloff from 1989, almost all of it in the second half of their games, when they seemed to lose much of their finishing kick. The Bengal running attack dropped off by 23 yards per game. Quarterback Boomer Esiason suffered 22 interceptions, the most of his career and exactly double his '89 number. His interception ratio, 5.5, was the highest of any starter in the NFL. Uncharacteristically, Esiason failed to finish among the top 10 passers in the NFL and barely made the AFC top 10.

Nevertheless, Bengal supporters saw something to cheer in the playoff loss to the Raiders. Despite playing without the left side of their line—tackle Anthony Munoz and guard Bruce Reimers, both of whom were injured—as well as without 1,000-yard rusher James Brooks, who dislocated his thumb, and



BOOMER ESIASON

BENGALS 1990 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

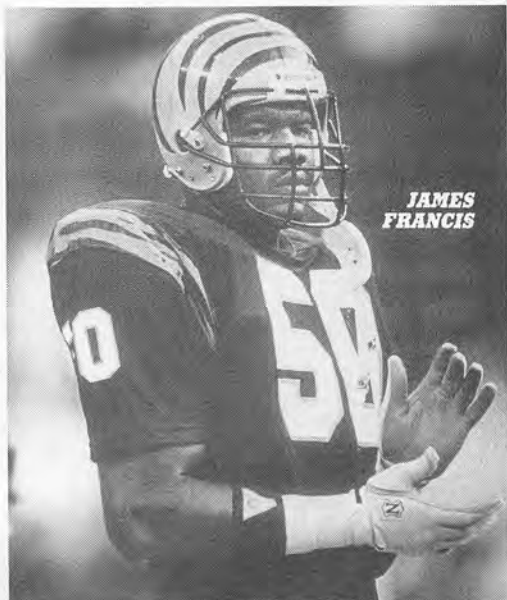
SCORING—Breech, 92 points on 41 extra points and 17 field goals... T7th
RUSHING—Brooks, 1,004 yards on 195 carries, 5.1 avg., 5 TDs... 5th
PASSING—Esiason, 224 of 402 attempts for 3,031 yards and 24 TDs... 9th
RECEIVING—Brown, 44 receptions for 706 yards, 16.0 avg., 9 TDs... T18th
INTERCEPTIONS—Bussey, 4 for 37 yards, 9.3 average... T4th
PUNTING—Johnson, 64 punts, 42.3 avg., longest 70 yards... 3rd
PUNT RETURNS—Price, 29 for 251 yards, 8.7 average, 1 TD... 5th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Jennings, 29 for 584 yards, 20.1 average... 9th
SACKS—Francis, 8.0 sacks... T11th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

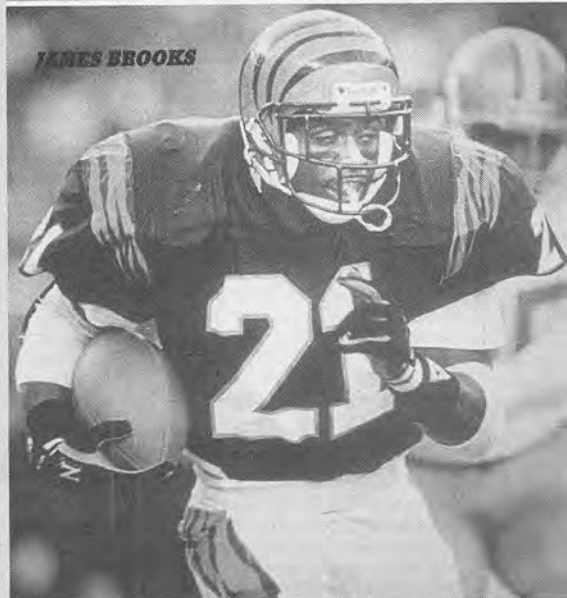
August 2 At Detroit (N)
10 PHILADELPHIA (N)
17 MINNESOTA (N)
24 Green Bay at Milwaukee (N)

1991 SCHEDULE

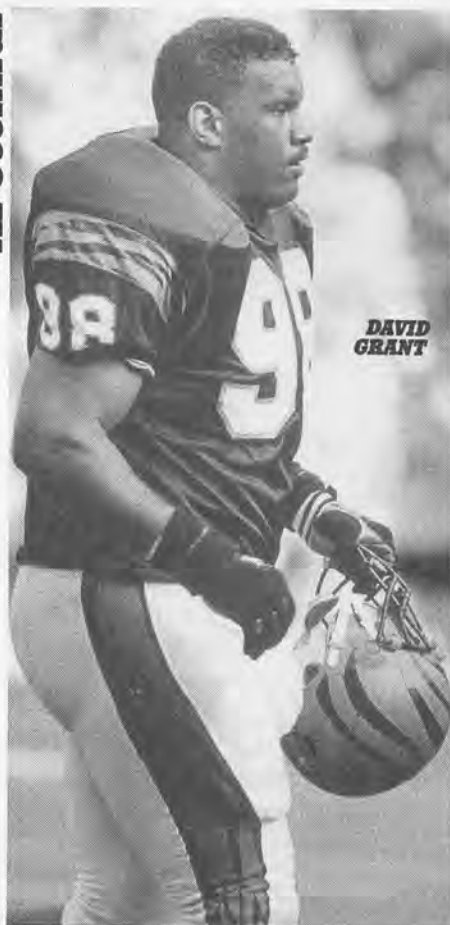
		1990 SCORES
September	1 At Denver	—
	8 HOUSTON (N)	40-20
	15 At Cleveland	34-13
	22 WASHINGTON	—
	29 OPEN DATE	—
October	6 SEATTLE	16-31
	13 At Dallas	—
	21 At Buffalo (N)	—
	27 At Houston	17-48
November	3 CLEVELAND	21-14
	10 PITTSBURGH	27-3
	17 At Philadelphia	—
	24 LOS ANGELES RAIDERS	7-24
December	1 NEW YORK GIANTS	—
	9 At Miami (N)	—
	15 At Pittsburgh	16-12
	22 NEW ENGLAND	41-7



JAMES FRANCIS



JAMES BROOKS



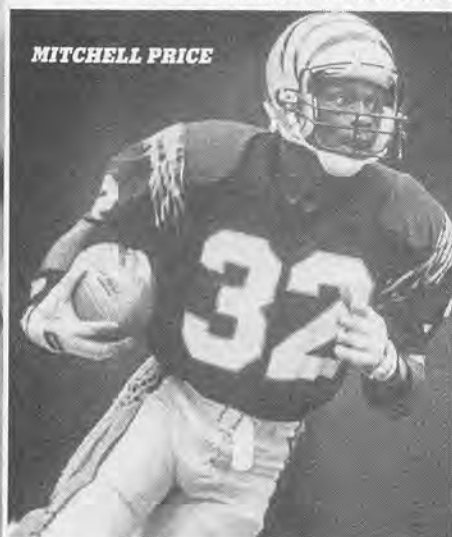
DAVID GRANT

with Esiason suffering from the flu, Cincinnati battled the Raiders nobly with a conservative game plan. The encouraging note was the play of Ickey Woods, who kept the Bengals in the game with 73 yards on 11 carries. It was Woods's most impressive game since he returned from knee surgery.

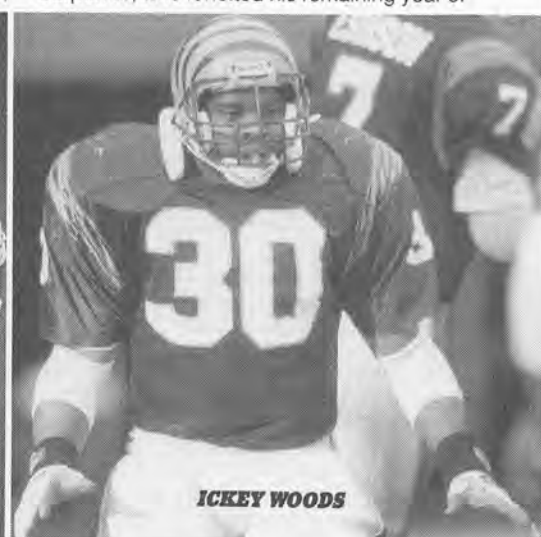
That may be Cincinnati's offensive path in the future: a more conservative attack that will keep a questionable defense off the field and take some of the burden off Esiason. Brooks is 32 and he'll celebrate a birthday before the next playoffs. There is a question of how long he can stand the wear and tear on his relatively small body. If Woods is all the way back, that would make a difference. Harold Green,

who averaged 4.3 yards on his 83 carries, is another possibility. Munoz, the great tackle, is the only starting lineman with high mileage on him. This is Reimers's eighth season, center Bruce Kozerski's seventh, and right tackle Joe Walters's seventh. Ken Moyer, who replaced Max Montoya at right guard, starts his third.

Esiason's receivers are old reliables. Wide receivers Eddie Brown and Tim McGee as well as tight end Rodney Holman all caught at least 40 passes. Brown had nine touchdown catches, McGee averaged 17.1 yards, and all-pro Holman blocked well as usual in addition to catching 40 passes, five for scores. Brooks added 26 catches and Woods 20. Rob Carpenter, who forfeited his remaining year of



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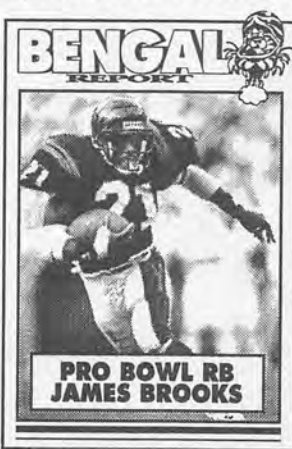
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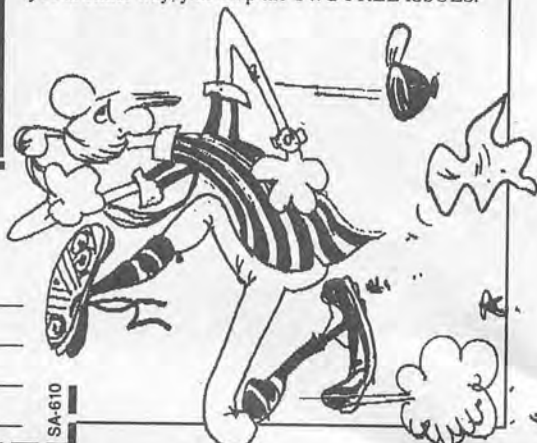
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eligibility at Syracuse, should work into Wyche's multiple-receiver sets.

Defensively, the Bengals gave up 45 more points than any of the NFL's 12 playoff teams. They yielded an average of 350 yards per game, 34 more than Esiason, Brooks, and their colleagues could produce. The only thing close to a stopper in the line is David Grant, the ex-nose tackle who was moved to end. Had had 44 tackles and just two sacks. Tim

Krumrie is not the same nose tackle he was before breaking his leg in Super Bowl XXIII. Rookie tackles Lamar Rogers of Auburn and Bob Dahl of Notre Dame should help.

The top pass rusher was outside linebacker James Francis, the No. 1 draft choice in '90. One of the NFL's top rookies, he led the Bengals with eight sacks. The only other Bengal with more than two sacks was spot player Natu Tuatagaloa, with 4½. As a team, Cincinnati had just 25 sacks. Kevin Walker had a decent year, but veteran outside linebacker Leon White and inside man Carl Zander both were subpar. Linebacker Bernard Clark, drafted in the second round with an eye toward stuffing

the run, was a disappointment. So was veteran pass rusher Jason Buck, who finished with half a sack. This year's top pick, Alfred Williams could be an instant starter if he becomes more consistent than he was at Colorado.

The emergence of ex-Buc Rod Jones could make Lewis Billups expendable at cornerback. The other corner, Eric Thomas, made a recovery from an offseason injury. Fulcher has lost some speed, particularly when he weighs 238 pounds, but he still makes the plays. He had five interceptions and finished second to Francis on the team with 75 tackles. Barney Bussey could be pushed at free safety if Rick-e-y Dixon recovers from his injury.

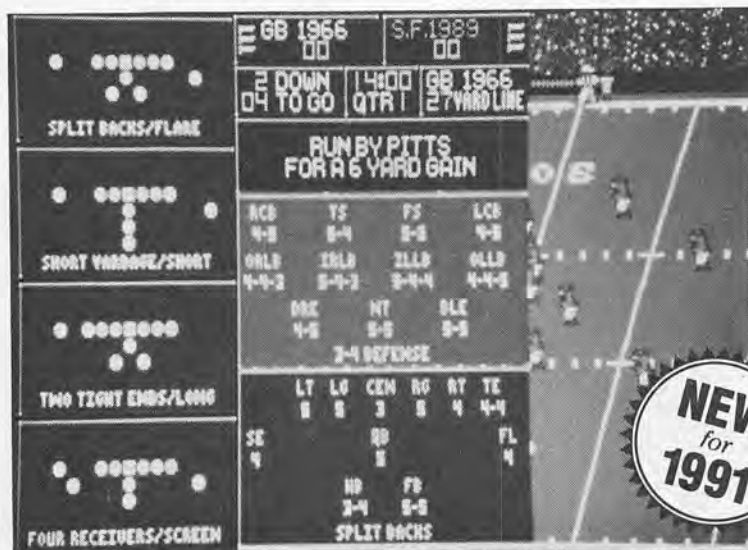
BENGALS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
37	Arby, Dennis	WR	5-11	183	San Diego St.
42	Ball, Eric	RB	6-2	214	UCLA
86	Barber, Mike	WR	5-11	172	Marshall
53	Barker, Leo	LB	6-2	230	New Mexico St.
24	Billups, Lewis	CB	5-11	182	North Alabama
74	Blados, Brian	G	6-5	296	North Carolina
55	Brady, Ed	LB	6-2	236	Illinois
3	Breach, Jim	K	5-6	161	California
60	Brennan, Mike	G	6-5	274	Notre Dame
21	Brooks, James	RB	5-10	182	Auburn
81	Brown, Eddie	WR	6-0	185	Miami
99	Buck, Jason	DE	6-5	264	BYU
27	Bussey, Barney	S	6-0	210	S.C. State
45	Carter, Carl	CB	5-11	180	Texas Tech
57	Clark, Bernard	LB	6-2	248	Miami
62	Crigler, Eric	T	6-5	295	Murray State
43	Dell, Howard	WR	6-2	210	McMaster
29	Dixon, Ricky	FS	5-11	191	Oklahoma
7	Esiason, Boomer	QB	6-5	220	Maryland
50	Francis, James	LB	6-5	252	Baylor
33	Fulcher, David	S	6-3	238	Arizona State
58	Gordon, Alex	LB	6-5	245	Cincinnati
98	Grant, David	DE	6-5	278	West Virginia
28	Green, Harold	RB	6-2	222	South Carolina
82	Holman, Rodney	TE	6-3	238	Tulane
80	James, Lynn	WR	6-0	191	Arizona State
36	Jennings, Stanford	RB	6-1	212	Furman
68	Jetton, Paul	OL	6-4	288	Texas
11	Johnson, Lee	K	6-2	200	BYU
26	Jones, Jerry	WR	5-10	175	Central State
25	Jones, Rod	CB	6-0	185	SMU
84	Kattus, Eric	TE	6-5	251	Michigan
64	Kozerski, Bruce	C	6-4	287	Holy Cross
69	Krumrie, Tim	DL	6-2	274	Wis-Madison
16	Langeloh, John	K	6-1	192	Michigan State
72	McClendon, Skip	DE	6-7	287	Arizona State
85	McGee, Tim	WR	5-10	183	Tennessee
49	McKay, Ken	TE	6-3	237	Louisville
73	Moyer, Ken	G	6-7	297	Toledo
78	Munoz, Anthony	T	6-6	284	Southern Cal
52	Ogletree, Craig	LB	6-2	236	Auburn
32	Price, Mitchell	CB	5-9	181	Tulane
75	Reimers, Bruce	G	6-7	298	Iowa State
88	Rembert, Reggie	WR	6-5	200	West Virginia
87	Riggs, Jim	TE	6-5	245	Clemson
76	Scrallford, Kirk	T	6-6	255	Montana
66	Sencyszyn, David	G	6-5	285	Wisconsin
83	Smith, Kendal	WR	5-10	189	Utah State
97	Stewart, Andrew	DE	6-5	265	Cincinnati
15	Swartz, Chris	QB	6-2	205	Morehead St.
20	Taylor, Craig	RB	6-0	228	West Virginia
22	Thomas, Eric	CB	5-11	181	Tulane
61	Trumbull, Rick	T	6-6	300	Missouri
96	Tuatagaloa, Natu	DE	6-4	274	California
39	Vallin, Travis	WR	6-1	187	Kearney State
67	Vincic, Branko	NT	6-4	300	E. Michigan
59	Walker, Kevin	LB	6-3	244	Maryland
63	Walter, Joe	T	6-7	292	Texas Tech
40	Waters, Melvin	RB	5-9	219	Tennessee St.
51	White, Leon	LB	6-3	242	BYU
4	Wilhelm, Erik	QB	6-3	217	Oregon State
30	Woods, Ickey	RB	6-2	232	UNLV
91	Zander, Carl	LB	6-2	235	Tennessee

DRAFTTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Williams, Alfred	LB	6-6	237	Colorado
2	Rodgers, Lamar	DT	6-4	289	Auburn
3	Dahl, Bob	DT	6-5	267	Notre Dame
4	Hollas, Donald	QB	6-3	215	Rice
4	Carpenier, Rob	WR	6-2	185	Syracuse
5	Arthur, Mike	C	6-3	270	Texas A&M
6	Fain, Richard	DB	5-11	185	Florida
7	Vinson, Fernandous	DB	5-11	198	N.C. State
8	Dingle, Mike	RB	6-3	235	South Carolina
9	Garrett, Shane	WR	5-11	185	Texas A&M
10	Lavin, Jim	G	6-4	280	Georgia Tech
11	Smith, Chris	TE	6-4	235	BYU
12	Bennett, Antoine	DB	5-11	185	Florida A&M

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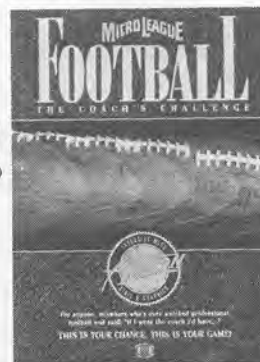
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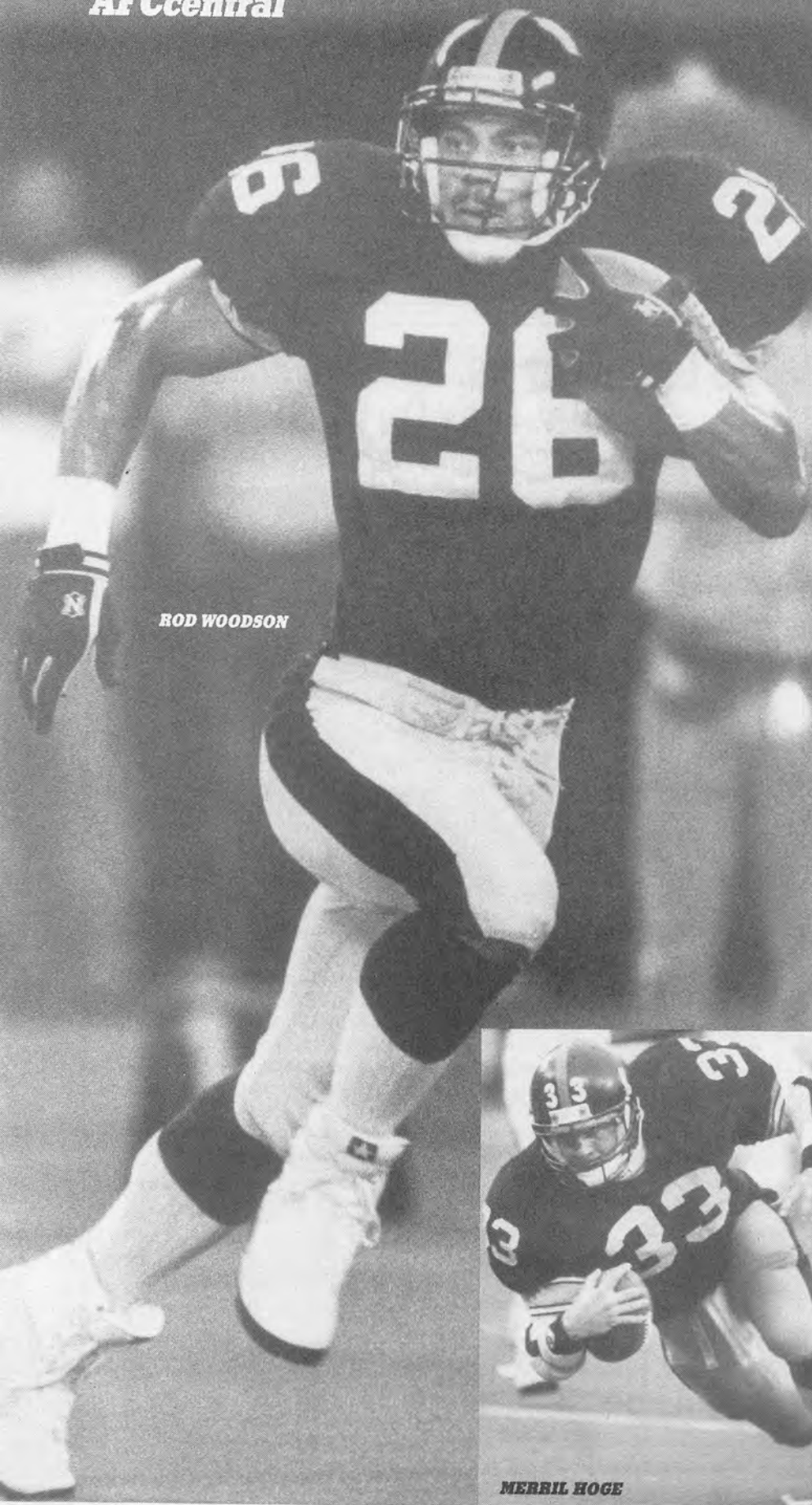
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ROD WOODSON

MERRILL HOGE

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Can frustration last for nine months? If so, the Steelers will have built-in motivation for 1991. All they had to do last January was to defeat the wounded Houston Oilers in the final game of the season and thus claim the AFC Central title. And why wouldn't they win? They were facing a passing team, a fact that seemed to play into their hands, since they had allowed just six touchdown passes in 15 games. Not only that, but they were facing second-string quarterback Cody Carlson. The Steel Curtain had come down on some of the best quarterbacks in the league. The Steelers intercepted the Oilers' top gun, Warren Moon, four times when they beat Houston early in the season. If the real thing couldn't penetrate them, how could his understudy? Well, Carlson killed them, throwing for three touchdowns. Pittsburgh missed the playoffs.

This season should be different. The defense which allowed fewer points than any

STEELERS 1990 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

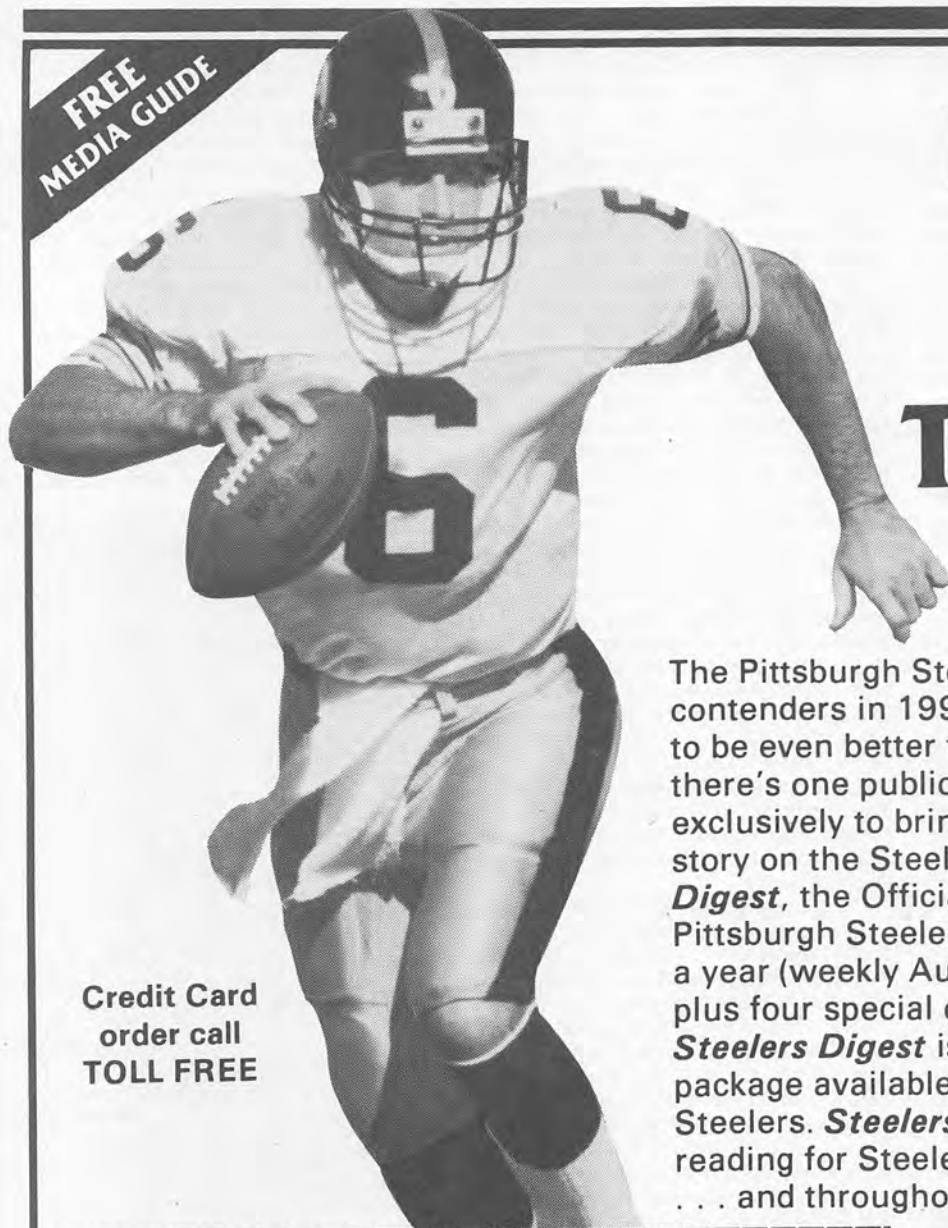
SCORING—Anderson, 92 points on 32 extra points and 20 field goals...T7th
RUSHING—Hoge, 772 yards on 203 carries, 3.8 avg., 7 TDs...10th
PASSING—Brister, 223 of 387 attempts for 2,725 yards and 20 TDs...6th
RECEIVING—Lipps, 50 receptions for 682 yards, 13.6 avg., 3 TDs...T14th
INTERCEPTIONS—Woodson, 5 for 67 yards, 13.4 average...T3rd
PUNTING—Stryzinski, 65 punts, 37.8 average, longest 51 yards...13th
PUNT RETURNS—Woodson, 38 for 398 yards, 10.5 average, 1 TD...2nd
KICKOFF RETURNS—Woodson, 35 for 764 yards, 21.8 average...3rd
SACKS—Williams, 6.0 sacks...T14th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 4 WASHINGTON (N)
 10 At Minnesota (N)
 17 At Philadelphia (N)
 23 At Detroit (N)

1991 SCHEDULE		1990 SCORES
September	1 SAN DIEGO.....	36-14
	8 At Buffalo.....	—
	15 NEW ENGLAND.....	24-3
	22 At Philadelphia.....	—
	29 OPEN DATE.....	—
October	6 At Indianapolis (N).....	—
	14 NEW YORK GIANTS (N).....	—
	20 SEATTLE.....	—
	27 At Cleveland.....	3-13
November	3 At Denver (N).....	34-17
	10 At Cincinnati.....	3-27
	17 WASHINGTON.....	—
	24 HOUSTON.....	20-9
	28 At Dallas.....	—
December	8 At Houston.....	14-34
	15 CINCINNATI.....	12-16
	22 CLEVELAND.....	35-0

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team in the AFC and finished first overall in the NFL rankings remains intact. Rod Woodson, the cornerback-kick returner who was voted the Steelers' MVP, did not sign with another team after he became a free agent.

It won't be all beer and pretzels, though. Pittsburgh scored 14 or fewer points in half its games last year, and not everything was smoothed out once the complicated offense of new coordinator Joe Walton became clearer. The Steelers were held to 12 and 14 points in games against division rivals Houston and Cincinnati down the stretch. Bubby Brister put up the best numbers of his career: 20 touchdown passes, 2,725 yards, and a 57.6 percent completion average. Still, he was found wanting too often. He's 29 now and in the final year of his contract. He has to make a move to a higher plateau if the Steelers are to become a dominant team. Brister may end up with lesser stats but still be a more effective quarterback. The Steelers are moving toward an offense more in line with the conservative, ball-control attack of the New York Giants.

The Steeler offense seemed to be out of sync with its material. In their 16-14 loss to Cincinnati last December, the Steelers threw the ball 40 times. Conventional wisdom in the NFL is that you beat Cincinnati by running the ball, not by passing it. The Giant may make sense for the Steelers. Once you get past Louis Lipps, Brister doesn't have proven wide receivers of quality. And what if Brister gets injured? His backups are nonentities. What Walton and head coach Chuck Noll do have is a roster of solid runners and a terrific second-year tight end, Eric Green. If they juggle their offensive line a bit, something Pittsburgh has been good at, ball control seems the way to go.

"Getting Barry Foster on the field has been in our minds all along," said Noll. No wonder. The kid fullback, who left the University of Arkansas a year early, averaged 5.6 yards on his 36 carries last year. He blocks, too. To get him into the lineup, Noll probably will move the trusty Merrill Hoge to

halfback. Hoge led the team in rushing with 772 yards, the highest total for a Steeler since 1986. He also caught 40 passes for 342 yards. The odd man out may be Tim Worley. Once a potential star, Worley has been making too many mistakes and dropping the ball too often. He gained just 418 yards last season. Warren Williams is mostly a change-of-pace guy. He averaged 5.7 yards and had a 70-yard touchdown run.

The offensive line is due for some change. Dermontti Dawson is one of the better centers in the NFL and tackle John Johnson may be the best man on this line. The other positions are somewhat unsettled. Tackle Tunch Ilkin seems injury-prone and less durable now that he's 34. Tom Ricketts seems ready for full-time work and Justin Strzelczyk may get more playing time at tackle. Noll hopes ex-wrestler Carlton Haselrig makes his move at guard, where Terry Long and Brian Blankenship need challenging.

Green demonstrated immediately in his rookie season that he is the prototype tight end. He led all players at his position with seven touchdowns and his 34 catches overall were the most by a Steeler tight end in seven years. If Noll wants a ball-control offense, Green is his guy. Wide receiver Louis Lipps had a 50-catch season, but after him who is there? Dwight Stone and Chris Calloway are specialty receivers. Derek Hill left through Plan B. The Steelers tried to address the deficiency in the draft, taking Jeff Graham of Ohio State and Ernie Mills, a raw talent, of Florida.

The greatest strength of the defense is the secondary, probably the NFL's best. Woodson is the premier cornerback in the AFC. He led the Steelers with five interceptions, defended 16 passes, and made 66 tackles. He was third in the AFC in kickoff returns with a 21.8-yard average and second in punt returns with a 10.5 average. Carnell Lake should be the best strong safety in the conference this year. Free safety Thomas Everett is an intimidator. David Johnson, who pushed Delton Hall out of a starting job, is an underappreciated corner. He was second on the team in tackles, including 59 initial hits, and defended 18 passes.

Inside linebacker David Little, the tackling leader, with 80, made the Pro Bowl. Hardy Nickerson, the other inside backer, and outside backers Bryan Hinkle and Greg Lloyd do quietly competent jobs.

The most dependable of the linemen is nose tackle Gerald Williams, whose quickness helped him lead the team in sacks, with six. The Steelers as a team had only 34 sacks, well under the league average. That is why they need a successful comeback by Aaron Jones, who was on the rise when he broke his foot. Donald Evans, whom the Rams originally drafted as a fullback, has possibilities as a pass-rush specialist. Ken Davidson and Craig Veasey are on the prospect list. Undersized Keith Willis still has something left. Florida pass rusher Huey Richardson, drafted in the first round, may offer help right away.

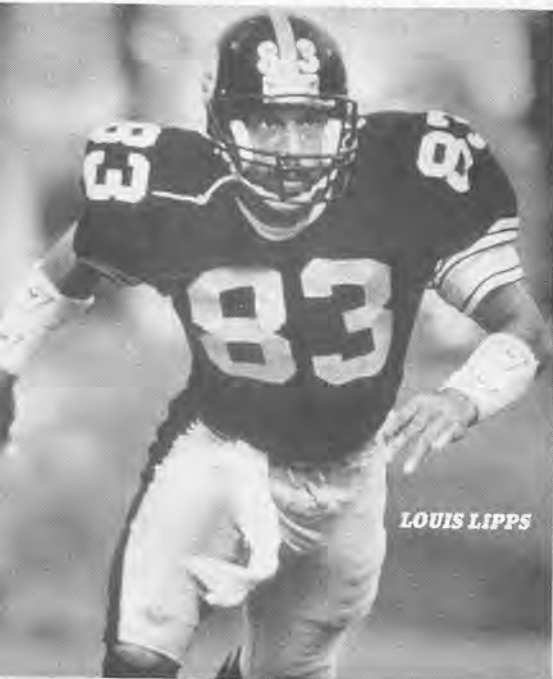
The kicking game is strong. Gary Anderson carries a streak of 50 consecutive successful field goals of 35 yards or shorter into this season. He was 20-of-25 overall in 1990.

STEELERS VETERAN ROSTER

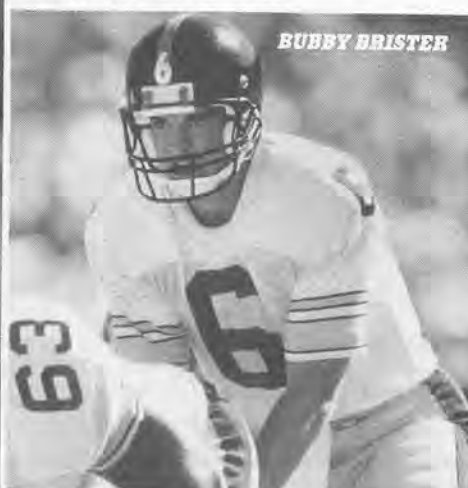
no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
1	Anderson, Gary	PK	5-11	184	32	Syracuse
60	Blankenship, Brian	DL	6-1	280	28	Nebraska
6	Brister, Bubby	QB	6-3	208	29	NE Louisiana
88	Calloway, Chris	WR	5-10	185	23	Michigan
64	Davidson, Kenny	DE	6-5	272	24	LSU
89	Davis, Lorenzo	WR	5-11	185	23	Youngstown State
63	Dawson, Dermontti	OL	6-2	279	26	Kentucky
96	Dunbar, Karl	DE	6-4	275	24	LSU
66	Evans, Donald	DE	6-2	265	27	Winston-Salem
27	Everett, Thomas	FS	5-9	182	27	Baylor
80	Fair, Ron	WR	5-11	190	25	Arizona State
29	Foster, Barry	RB	5-10	223	23	Arkansas
68	Freeman, Lorenzo	DL	6-5	318	27	Pittsburgh
86	Green, Eric	TE	6-5	274	24	Liberty
22	Griffin, Larry	S	6-0	202	28	North Carolina
35	Hall, Delton	CB	6-1	208	26	Clemson
77	Haselrig, Carlton	G	6-1	291	25	Pitt-Johnstown
	Herds, Tyreese	DB	5-11	205	23	Kansas State
53	Hinkle, Bryan	LB	6-2	220	32	Oregon
33	Hoge, Merrill	RB	6-2	229	26	Idaho State
62	Ilkin, Tunch	OT	6-3	274	34	Indiana State
65	Jackson, John	OT	6-6	290	26	Eastern Kentucky
99	Jenkins, A.J.	LB/DE	6-2	237	25	Cal-Fullerton
44	Johnson, David	CB	6-0	185	25	Kentucky
97	Jones, Aaron	DE	6-5	269	25	Eastern Kentucky
25	Jones, Gary	S	6-1	203	24	Texas A&M
37	Lake, Carnell	SS	6-1	207	24	UCLA
51	Lanza, Chuck	C	6-2	265	27	Notre Dame
83	Lipps, Louis	WR	5-10	186	29	Southern Miss
50	Little, David	LB	6-1	236	32	Florida
95	Lloyd, Greg	LB	6-2	225	26	Fort Valley St.
74	Loyd, Terry	G	5-11	278	32	East Carolina
	McGovern, Rob	LB	6-2	234	25	Holy Cross
84	Mularkey, Mike	TE	6-4	238	30	Florida
54	Nickerson, Hardy	LB	6-2	225	26	California
14	O'Donnell, Neil	QB	6-3	221	25	Maryland
55	Olavsky, Jerry	LB	6-1	218	24	Pittsburgh
85	O'Shea, Terry	TE	6-4	238	25	California (Pa)
71	Ricketts, Tom	OT	6-5	293	26	Pittsburgh
20	Stone, Dwight	WR/RB	6-0	190	27	Middle Tenn.
11	Strom, Rick	QB	6-2	201	26	Georgia Tech
4	Stryzinski, Dan	P	6-1	193	26	Indiana
73	Strzelczyk, Justin	OT	6-5	291	23	Maine
91	Veasey, Craig	DT	6-2	280	25	Houston
98	Williams, Gerald	NT	6-3	291	28	Auburn
57	Williams, Jerrol	LB	6-5	244	24	Purdue
42	Williams, Warren	RB	6-0	201	26	Miami
93	Willis, Keith	DE	6-1	263	32	Northeastern
49	Woodruff, Dwayne	CB	6-0	196	34	Louisville
26	Woodson, Rod	CB	6-0	197	26	Purdue
38	Worley, Tim	RB	6-2	223	25	Georgia
	Wyatt, Willie	DL	6-0	275	24	Alabama

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Richardson, Huey	LB	6-4	238	Florida
2	Graham, Jeff	WR	6-1	198	Ohio State
3	Mills, Ernie	WR	5-11	176	Florida
4	Walker, Sammy	DB	5-11	192	Texas Tech
4	Cooper, Adrian	TE	6-5	253	Oklahoma
6	Thompson, Leroy	RB	5-10	210	Penn State
7	Jones, Andre	LB	6-2	228	Notre Dame
8	Dingman, Dean	G	6-2	292	Michigan
9	McGonnigal, Bruce	TE	6-5	272	Colorado
10	Soloman, Ariel	T	6-5	272	Colorado
11	Thomas, Efrum	DB	6-0	188	Alabama
12	Brady, Jeff	LB	6-1	228	Kentucky



LOUIS LIPPS



BUBBY BRISTER

BERNIE KOSAR

CLEVELAND BROWNS

The Browns reversed their biological field in an effort to change their fortunes. A year ago the head coach was Bud Carson, an old hand in the craft. Now they have 38-year-old Bill Belichick, youngest coach in the NFL. Belichick is not the key man for the Browns as they attempt a turnaround. Neither is Bernie Kosar, the beleaguered quarterback.

The key Brownie is Art Modell, the long-time "playing owner" of the franchise. Modell, whose anguished profile became nationally known as the television cameras focused on his box while his team suffered heartbreaking late-season losses year after year, must come to grips with reality. The boss overrated his team to a ridiculous level last year. He saw another contender when almost everyone else in the NFL saw a crumbling shell. Modell made bad decisions based on his misplaced confidence. He also led with his heart when hard-nosed judgment was in order. A case in point was Ozzie Newsome, the team's all-time tight end. Newsome had already announced his retirement after the previous season, then changed his mind. Instead of telling Ozzie it was all over for him in Cleveland, Modell allowed him to come back. The Browns hadn't even made plans for the post-Newsome era. They ended up playing a man who was about a mile past his prime.

After Super Bowl XXV, Modell signed Belichick, the Giants' defensive coordinator, to a five-year, \$2.5 million contract. Now he has to leave the new man alone to do his job. Belichick's first task will be to save Kosar. A quarterback who has suffered a number of injuries over the last three seasons, Kosar hit the turf 91 times last year, 37 on sacks and 54 times after he released the ball. Considering Kosar's lack of mobility and his fragile state, Belichick might be out of business before he starts unless he devises some way for the quarterback to remain standing.

No offensive linemen, with the exception of right tackle Tony Jones and maybe center Gregg Rakoczy, should feel that their jobs are safe. The Browns went into Plan B more enthusiastically than any other team, signing 11 players, two of whom are offensive linemen and another a blocking tight end. The linemen are guard John Rienstra, once a great hope in

BROWNS 1990 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Kauric, 66 points on 24 extra points and 14 field goals...15th
RUSHING—Mack, 702 yards on 158 carries, 4.4 avg., 5 TDs...12th
PASSING—Kosar, 230 of 423 attempts for 2,562 yards and 10 TDs...13th
RECEIVING—Slaughter, 59 receptions for 847 yards, 14.4 avg., 4 TDs...9th
INTERCEPTIONS—Wright, 3 for 56 yards, 18.7 average...15th
PUNTING—Wagner, 74 punts, 38.9 avg., longest 65 yards...10th
PUNT RETURNS—Adams, 13 for 81 yards, 6.2 average...unranked
KICKOFF RETURNS—Metcalfe, 52 for 1,052 yards, 20.2 avg., 2 TDs...8th
SACKS—Perry, 11.5 sacks...16th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 5 TAMPA BAY (N)
10 N.Y. GIANTS (N)
16 At Washington (N)
23 At Minnesota (N)

1991 SCHEDULE

		1990 SCORES
September	1 DALLAS.....	—
	8 At New England.....	—
	15 CINCINNATI.....	13-34
	22 At New York Giants.....	—
	29 OPEN DATE.....	—
October	6 NEW YORK JETS.....	21-28
	13 At Washington.....	—
	20 At San Diego.....	14-24
	27 PITTSBURGH.....	13-3
November	3 At Cincinnati.....	14-21
	10 PHILADELPHIA.....	—
	17 At Houston (N).....	14-58
	24 KANSAS CITY.....	0-34
December	1 At Indianapolis.....	—
	8 DENVER.....	30-29
	15 HOUSTON.....	23-35
	22 At Pittsburgh.....	0-35

ERIC METCALF

Pittsburgh, and Rob Woods, a tackle from Kansas City. The tight end is Charles Arbuckle of New Orleans. Ed King, the Auburn guard drafted in the second round in April, could be an instant starter.

Kosar finished with the second-worst efficiency rating in the AFC, 65.7, 20 points below his career average. He passed for only 10 touchdowns and was intercepted 15 times. Kosar, who missed the playoffs for the first time in his pro career, won't be 28 years old until late in the season. The Browns need to rehabilitate both him and their passing game if they are to improve.

Belichick may have to do a lot of attitude-adjusting to succeed. Webster Slaughter, who led the team in receiving with 59 catches, is a big talent, but he can be an even bigger prima donna. Fullback Leroy Hoard spent part of his rookie season falling asleep in meetings, getting in trouble, and fumbling. The Browns fumble a lot. Hoard, who played relatively little, dropped the ball six times. So did Kevin Mack. Eric Metcalf fumbled eight times. In all, Cleveland fumbled 37 times.

Belichick also needs to work on Metcalf's confidence. The public is convinced the Browns made a mistake when they drafted him No. 1 three seasons ago, and they let him know about their feelings each week. Compounding that problem, the Browns' past strategists couldn't get a clear idea what they wanted to do with him. Metcalf caught 57 passes but he didn't take them very far, an average of just 7.9 yards. He carried the ball 80 times from scrimmage and averaged just 3.1 yards. The only times he broke big plays were on kickoff returns. He had the only two touchdown returns in the AFC. Metcalf has to be worked into the offense as a prominent weapon. He could be one of the most dangerous game-breakers in the NFL. Lawyer Tillman, another disappointment, must be switched from wide receiver to tight end.

Mack was a major part of the Browns' offense, gaining 702 yards, averaging 4.4, and scoring five touchdowns. The Browns gained fewer rushing yards than any team in the league. Belichick signed Lee Rouson, a special-teams ace who could be a help in the backfield, from the Giants.

A large portion of the draft and Plan B was spent on defense, Belichick's specialty. Exhibit A from the draft is Eric Turner, a safety from UCLA reputed to be in the Kenny Easley-Steve Atwater mold. The sleeper is Northern Iowa's 299-pound nose tackle, James Jones. His college coach lined him up as a 285-pound linebacker so Jones could range all over to make tackles. Plan B brings linebackers David Brandon and Richard Brown of San Diego and safety Vince Newsome of the Rams. There is hope for the defensive line as long as it has tackle Michael Dean Perry. Tom Gibson is stationed next to him, with two promising kids, Rob Burnett and Anthony Pleasant, at the ends.

The linebacking is heavily experienced, with Clay Matthews and David Grayson on the outside and Mike Johnson in the middle. The secondary is an aging mess, with corners Raymond Clayborn and Frank Minnifield on the purge list. Newsome should start along-

side Turner at safety. Mark Harper and Anthony Blaylock could move to the corners.

Look for a change in the kicking. Pitt punter Brian Greenfield was drafted while kickers Mike Lansford of the Rams and Matt Stover of the Giants arrived via Plan B, along with New England punter Brian Hansen.

BROWNS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
48	Arbuckle, Charles	TE	6-2	240	23	UCLA
61	Baib, Mike	C	6-4	275	32	Texas
37	Barnett, Harlon	S	5-11	200	24	Michigan State
24	Blaylock, Tony	CB	5-11	190	26	Winston-Salem
18	Bolton, Nathaniel	WR	6-0	190	23	Miss. College
36	Briggs, Stephen	DB	5-9	180	26	Texas
58	Brandon, David	LB	6-4	230	26	Memphis State
86	Brennan, Brian	WR	5-10	185	29	Boston College
52	Brown, Richard	LB	6-3	240	26	San Diego St.
90	Burnett, Rob	DL	6-4	270	24	Syracuse
26	Clayborn, Raymond	CB	6-1	190	36	Texas
79	Cunningham, Ed	T	6-7	295	25	Texas
54	Ellis, Theron	LB	6-1	243	22	West Virginia
74	Farren, Paul	OL	6-6	270	31	Boston U.
69	Fike, Dan	G	6-7	285	30	Florida
53	Fontenette, Dwayne	LB	6-2	235	23	SW Louisiana
13	Francis, Jeff	QB	6-4	225	25	Tennessee
27	Gainer, Derrick	RB	5-11	235	25	Florida A&M
81	Galbraith, Scott	TE	6-3	260	24	Southern Cal
30	Gash, Thane	S	6-0	195	26	East Tenn. St.
56	Grayson, David	LB	6-3	230	27	Fresno State
11	Hansen, Brian	P	6-4	220	31	Sioux Falls
23	Harper, Mark	CB	5-9	185	30	Alcorn State
64	Hawthorne, George	T	6-6	275	24	Iowa
43	Herring, Archie	RB	5-7	170	24	Youngstown St.
93	Hines, John	DE	6-4	260	25	Alabama State
33	Hoard, Leroy	RB	5-11	230	23	Michigan
62	Jefferson, Ben	T	6-9	330	25	Maryland
51	Johnson, Eddie	LB	6-1	235	32	Louisville
16	Johnson, Flip	WR	5-9	181	28	McNeese State
59	Johnson, Mike	LB	6-1	230	29	Virginia Tech
80	Joiner, Vernon	WR	6-2	210	26	Maryland
66	Jones, Tony	T	6-5	290	25	W. Carolina
19	Kosar, Bernie	QB	6-5	215	28	Miami
40	Kramer, Kyle	S	6-3	190	24	Bowling Green
88	Langhorne, Reggie	WR	6-2	205	28	Elizabeth City
2	Lastar, R.D.	K	5-11	190	22	Oklahoma
49	Lyons, Robert	S	6-2	200	25	Akron
34	Mack, Kevin	FB	6-0	230	29	Clemson
57	Matthews, Clay	LB	6-2	245	35	Southern Cal
21	Metcalf, Eric	RB	5-10	190	23	Texas
31	Minnifield, Frank	CB	5-9	180	31	Louisville
20	Morris, Joe	RB	5-7	195	31	Syracuse
67	Morris, Mike	C	6-5	285	30	NE Missouri
89	Oliphant, Mike	WR	5-9	171	28	Puget Sound
35	Oliver, Charlie	S	6-0	190	22	Idaho
92	Perry, Michael Dean	DT	6-1	285	26	Clemson
9	Pleasant, Anthony	DE	6-5	258	23	Tennessee St.
73	Rakoczy, Gregg	OL	6-5	295	24	Miami
77	Reeves, Ken	OL	6-5	277	30	Texas A&M
70	Rienstra, John	G	6-5	275	28	Temple
72	Robbins, Kevin	OL	6-6	295	25	Michigan State
44	Rouson, Lee	RB	6-1	222	29	Colorado
83	Rowell, Eugene	WR	6-1	180	23	Southern Miss
95	Sanders, Terrence	DL	6-6	330	25	Grambling
28	Shavers, Tyrone	WR	6-3	210	23	Lamar
97	Sims, Darryl	DE	6-3	275	30	Wisconsin
84	Slaughter, Webster	WR	6-1	170	27	San Diego St.
4	Smith, Billy	P	5-11	190	25	UT-Chattanooga
3	Stover, Matt	K	5-11	178	23	La. Tech
42	Strong, Terrence	RB	5-9	195	23	Cincinnati
87	Talley, John	TE	6-5	245	27	West Virginia
65	Tamm, Ralph	OL	6-4	280	25	West Chester
85	Tillman, Lawyer	WR	6-5	230	25	Auburn
50	Walters, Van	LB	6-4	250	26	Indiana
91	Weston, Rhondy	DL	6-5	280	25	Florida
99	Williams, Martin	DE	6-3	255	26	W. Illinois
78	Woods, Rob	T	6-5	295	26	Arizona

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Turner, Eric	S	6-1	206	UCLA
2	King, Ed	G	6-4	297	Auburn
3	Jones, James	NT	6-1	299	Northern Iowa
4	Sagapolutele, Pio	DT	6-5	281	San Diego St.
6	Jackson, Michael	WR	6-4	185	Southern Miss
8	Conover, Frank	DT	6-5	320	Syracuse
9	Irvin, Raymond	DB	5-11	174	Central Florida
9	Wiggins, Shawn	WR	5-10	164	Wyoming
10	Greenfield, Brian	P	5-11	220	Pittsburgh
11	Jones, Todd	G	6-2	290	Henderson St.
12	Austin, Elijah	DL	6-2	280	N.C. State



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ERIC TURNER

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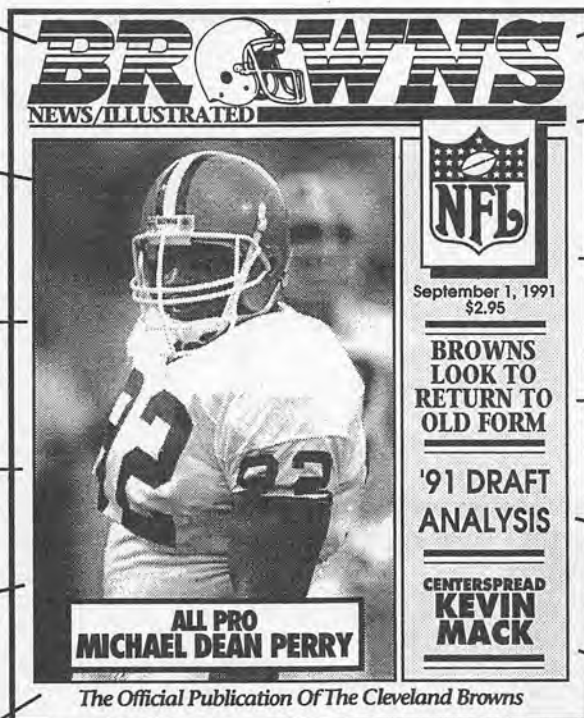
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NFC STATISTICS

RECORDS

Points: 176, Paul Hornung, Green Bay (1960)
Touchdowns: 24, John Riggins, Washington (1983)
Field goals: 35, Ali Haji-Sheikh, New York (1983)
Extra points: 62, Mark Moseley, Washington (1983)

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	SAF	POINTS
Philadelphia.....	48	10	34	4	45	48	21	29	0	396
Washington.....	41	16	22	3	41	41	30	40	2	381
Detroit.....	46	19	24	3	46	46	17	26	0	373
San Francisco.....	40	12	28	0	39	40	24	36	1	353
Minnesota.....	39	10	25	4	38	39	25	28	2	351
Atlanta.....	40	11	21	8	40	40	22	33	1	348
Chicago.....	39	22	14	3	36	38	26	37	0	348
L.A. Rams.....	43	17	24	2	42	43	15	24	0	345
N.Y. Giants.....	39	17	18	4	38	39	21	28	0	335
New Orleans.....	30	14	15	1	29	30	21	27	1	274
Green Bay.....	29	5	20	4	28	29	23	30	0	271
Phoenix.....	31	13	16	2	31	31	17	27	0	268
Tampa Bay.....	28	7	18	3	27	28	23	27	0	264
Dallas.....	27	13	12	2	26	27	18	25	1	244

SCORING

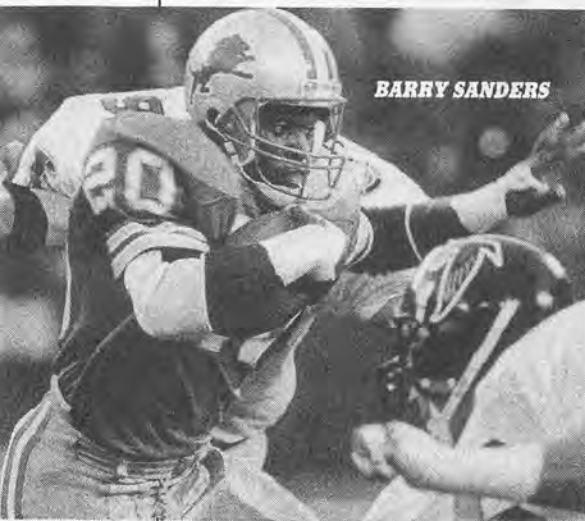
Ellard, Henry, Rams.....	4	0	4	0	24
Green, Roy, Phoe.....	4	0	4	0	24
Hampton, Rodney, Giants.....	4	2	2	0	24
Harbaugh, Jim, Chi.....	4	4	0	0	24
Heyward, Craig, N.O.....	4	4	0	0	24
Johnson, Tracy, Atl.....	4	3	1	0	24
Jones, Ernie, Phoe.....	4	0	4	0	24
Novacek, Jay, Dall.....	4	0	4	0	24
Proehl, Ricky, Phoe.....	4	0	4	0	24
Sherman, Heath, Phil.....	4	1	3	0	24
Thompson, Anthony, Phoe.....	4	4	0	0	24
Toney, Anthony, Phil.....	4	1	3	0	24
Turner, Floyd, N.O.....	4	0	4	0	24
Byars, Keith, Phil.....	3	0	3	0	18
Carter, Cris, Minn.....	3	0	3	0	18
Davis, Wendell, Chi.....	3	0	3	0	18
Greer, Terry, Det.....	3	0	3	0	18
Haddix, Wayne, T.B.....	3	0	0	3	18
Johnson, Damone, Rams.....	3	0	3	0	18
Jordan, Steve, Minn.....	3	0	3	0	18
Morris, Ron, Chi.....	3	0	3	0	18
Query, Jeff, G.B.....	3	0	2	1	18
Rosenbach, Timm, Phoe.....	3	3	0	0	18
Rozier, Mike, Atl.....	3	3	0	0	18
Sanders, Deion, Atl.....	3	0	0	3	18
Sanders, Ricky, Wash.....	3	0	3	0	18
Sydney, Harry, S.F.....	3	2	1	0	18
Anderson, Alfred, Minn.....	2	2	0	0	12
Brenner, Hoby, N.O.....	2	0	2	0	12
Butler, Bobby, Atl.....	2	0	0	2	12
Campbell, Jeff, Det.....	2	0	2	0	12
Cobb, Reggie, T.B.....	2	2	0	0	12
Collins, Shawn, Atl.....	2	0	2	0	12
Fenerty, Gill, N.O.....	2	2	0	0	12
Fenney, Rick, Minn.....	2	2	0	0	12
Flagler, Terrence, Phoe.....	2	1	1	0	12
Gentry, Dennis, Chi.....	2	0	2	0	12
Green, Gaston, Rams.....	2	0	1	1	12
Haddix, Michael, G.B.....	2	0	2	0	12
Hall, Ron, T.B.....	2	0	2	0	12
Holohan, Pete, Rams.....	2	0	2	0	12
Hosteller, Jeff, Giants.....	2	2	0	0	12
Humphries, Stan, Wash.....	2	2	0	0	12
Johnson, Jimmie, Wash.....	2	0	2	0	12
Johnston, Daryl, Dall.....	2	1	1	0	12
Kemp, Perry, G.B.....	2	0	2	0	12
Meggett, Dave, Giants.....	2	0	1	1	12
Noga, Al, Minn.....	2	0	0	2	12
Perkins, Bruce, T.B.....	2	0	2	0	12
Perriman, Brett, N.O.....	2	0	2	0	12
Sherrard, Mike, S.F.....	2	0	2	0	12
Smith, J.T., Phoe.....	2	0	2	0	12
Thompson, Darrell, G.B.....	2	1	0	1	12
Tomczak, Mike, Chi.....	2	2	0	0	12
Turner, Marcus, Phoe.....	2	0	0	2	12
Wilkins, Gary, Atl.....	2	0	2	0	12
Agee, Tommie, Dall.....	1	0	1	0	6
Aikman, Troy, Dall.....	1	1	0	0	6
Allen, Eric, Phil.....	1	0	0	1	6
Bailey, Johnny, Chi.....	1	0	0	1	6
Boso, Cap, Chi.....	1	0	1	0	6
Browner, Joey, Minn.....	1	0	0	1	6
Bryant, Kelvin, Wash.....	1	0	1	0	6
Carter, Dexter, S.F.....	1	1	0	0	6
Case, Scott, Atl.....	1	0	0	1	6
Chandler, Chris, T.B.....	1	1	0	0	6
Craig, Roger, S.F.....	1	1	0	0	6
Crockett, Ray, Det.....	1	0	0	1	6
Dent, Richard, Chi.....	1	0	0	1	6

NON-KICKERS

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	PTS
Sanders, Barry, Det.....	16	13	3	0	96
Gary, Cleveland, Rams.....	15	14	1	0	90
Anderson, Neal, Chi.....	13	10	3	0	78
Rice, Jerry, S.F.....	13	0	13	0	78
Anderson, Ottis, Giants.....	11	11	0	0	66
Smith, Emmitt, Dall.....	11	11	0	0	66
Rison, Andre, Atl.....	10	0	10	0	60
Walker, Herschel, Minn.....	9	5	4	0	54
Williams, Calvin, Phil.....	9	0	9	0	54
Barnett, Fred, Phil.....	8	0	8	0	48
Carter, Anthony, Minn.....	8	0	8	0	48
Clark, Gary, Wash.....	8	0	8	0	48
Clark, Robert, Det.....	8	0	8	0	48
Byner, Earnest, Wash.....	7	6	1	0	42
Jones, Hassan, Minn.....	7	0	7	0	42
Mayes, Rueben, N.O.....	7	7	0	0	42
Rathman, Tom, S.F.....	7	7	0	0	42
Taylor, John, S.F.....	7	0	7	0	42
Jackson, Keith, Phil.....	6	0	6	0	36
Johnson, Richard, Det.....	6	0	6	0	36
Muster, Brad, Chi.....	6	6	0	0	36
Peete, Rodney, Det.....	6	6	0	0	36
Riggs, Gerald, Wash.....	6	6	0	0	36
Sharpe, Sterling, G.B.....	6	0	6	0	36
Anderson, Gary, T.B.....	5	3	2	0	30
Bavaro, Mark, Giants.....	5	0	5	0	30
Cunningham, Randall, Phil.....	5	5	0	0	30
Hill, Bruce, T.B.....	5	0	5	0	30
Ingram, Mark, Giants.....	5	0	5	0	30
Irvin, Michael, Dall.....	5	0	5	0	30
Johnson, Johnny, Phoe.....	5	5	0	0	30
Jones, Brent, S.F.....	5	0	5	0	30
Martin, Eric, N.O.....	5	0	5	0	30
McGee, Buford, Rams.....	5	1	4	0	30
Monk, Art, Wash.....	5	0	5	0	30
West, Ed, G.B.....	5	0	5	0	30
Anderson, Willie, Rams.....	4	0	4	0	24
Baker, Stephen, Giants.....	4	0	4	0	24
Broussard, Steve, Atl.....	4	4	0	0	24
Carrier, Mark, T.B.....	4	0	4	0	24
Delpino, Robert, Rams.....	4	0	4	0	24
Dixon, Floyd, Atl.....	4	0	4	0	24

KICKERS

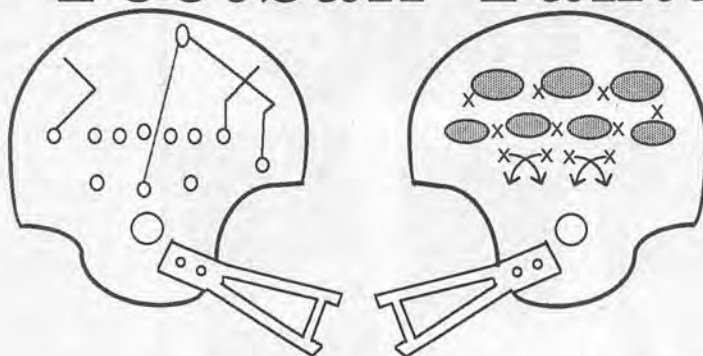
	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Lohmiller, Chip, Wash.....	41	41	30	40	131
Butler, Kevin, Chi.....	36	37	26	37	114
Cofe, Mike, S.F.....	39	39	24	36	111
Ruzek, Roger, Phil.....	45	48	21	29	108
Davis, Greg, Atl.....	40	40	22	33	106
Jacke, Chris, G.B.....	28	29	23	30	97
Christie, Steve, T.B.....	27	27	23	27	96
Andersen, Morten, N.O.....	29	29	21	27	92
Lansford, Mike, Rams.....	42	43	15	24	87
Del Greco, Al, Phoe.....	31	31	17	27	82
Bahr, Matt, Giants.....	29	30	17	23	80
Willis, Ken, Dall.....	26	26	18	25	80
Murray, Eddie, Det.....	34	34	13	19	73
Reveiz, Fuad, S.D.-Minn.....	26	27	13	19	65
Igwebuikwe, Donald, Minn.....	19	19	14	16	61
Karlis, Rich, Det.....	12	12	4	7	24
Allegre, Raul, Giants.....	9	9	4	5	21



BARRY SANDERS

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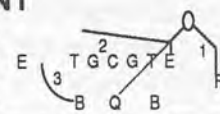
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Sample Play Card

21-QUICK SLANT

Short +3 Dog +1
Key (R) +1 Blitz +2
Run +1 Pass-Man -4
Key (W) +1 Pass-Zone -3
Read +1 Prevent -3



Offense	Defense	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1 LT (PC)	DE (RX)	INT	-4	-4	-3	-1	inc	SR	3	3	4
2 RT (PC)	DE (RX)	INT	-4	-3	-2	inc	inc	SR	3	4	5
3 LG (PC)	DT (RX)	INT	-3	-2	inc	inc	inc	SR	4	5	6
4 RG (PC)	DT (RX)	INT	-2	inc	inc	inc	inc	4	5	6	6
5 OC (PC)	NT (RX)	INT	inc	inc	inc	inc	4	5	5	6	7
6 BB (BK)	OLB (RX)	INT	inc	inc	inc	inc	5	5	6	7	7
7 QB (3R)	A (SX)	inc	inc	inc	inc	inc	5	6	7	7	8
8 QB (2R)	B1 (SX)	inc	inc	inc	inc	inc	6	7	7	8	9
9 2R (PH)	B1 (SX)	inc	inc	inc	inc	6	6	7	8	9	9
10 2R (PF)	B1 (SX)	inc	inc	inc	inc	6	7	8	9	9	10
11 QB (PO)	A (SX)	inc	inc	inc	inc	7	8	8	9	10	11
12 QB (PO)	B1 (SX)	inc	inc	inc	7	8	8	9	10	11	12
13 QB (PO)	A (SX)	inc	inc	inc	8	8	9	10	11	12	12
14 QB (PO)	B1 (SX)	inc	inc	inc	8	9	10	11	11	12	13
15 QB (PO)	A (SX)	inc	inc	8	9	10	10	11	12	13	14
16 1R (PH)	B1 (SX)	inc	inc	9	10	10	11	12	13	14	14
17 1R (PH)	A (SX)	inc	inc	9	10	11	12	13	14	14	B
18 1R (PC)	B1 (SX)	inc	9	10	11	12	13	14	14	B	B
19 1R (RQ)	A (TK)	inc	10	11	12	13	13	14	B	B	B
20 1R (RQ)	B1 (TK)	inc	11	12	13	13	14	B	B	B	B

Actual Size of Play Cards: 3 3/8" x 3 7/8"

Each play card is divided up into four sections. The upper right section is a schematic diagram of the play. The upper left section shows how each defense affects the outcome of that play. The lower left section shows which players match up and which abilities they utilize on that play. The lower right section gives the possible outcomes for that play.

Each player card (not shown) is divided up into three sections. The upper section shows player information. The middle section gives the player's ratings used in the game. The lower section displays the player's statistics.

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- (2) how the key individual players match up.
- (3) a random factor, based on a probabilistic distribution.

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NFCstatistics

Drewrey, Willie, T.B.	1	0	1	0	6
Drummond, Robert, Phil.	1	1	0	0	6
Duerson, Dave, Giants	1	0	0	1	6
Evans, Byron, Phil.	1	0	0	1	6
Everett, Jim, Rams	1	1	0	0	6
Faison, Derrick, Rams	1	0	1	0	6
Fontenot, Herman, G.B.	1	0	1	0	6
Fourcade, John, N.O.	1	1	0	0	6
Frizzell, William, Phil.	1	0	0	1	6
Fullwood, Brent, G.B.	1	1	0	0	6
Gannon, Rich, Minn.	1	1	0	0	6
Gouveia, Kurt, Wash.	1	0	0	1	6
Green, Darrell, Wash.	1	0	0	1	6
Green, Mark, Chi.	1	0	1	0	6
Greene, Tiger, G.B.	1	0	0	1	6
Hargrove, Marvin, Phil.	1	0	1	0	6
Harvey, John, T.B.	1	0	1	0	6
Hilliard, Dalton, N.O.	1	0	1	0	6
Hobbs, Stevie, Wash.	1	0	1	0	6
Holt, Issiac, Dall.	1	0	0	1	6
Humphery, Bobby, Rams	1	0	0	1	6
Jackson, Vestee, Chi.	1	0	0	1	6
Jones, Keith, Atl.	1	0	0	1	6
Kiel, Blair, G.B.	1	1	0	0	6
Majkowski, Don, G.B.	1	1	0	0	6
Mathews, Aubrey, Det.	1	0	1	0	6
Maxie, Brett, N.O.	1	0	0	1	6
McKinnon, Dennis, Dall.	1	0	1	0	6
Merriweather, Mike, Minn.	1	0	0	1	6
Miller, Chris, Atl.	1	1	0	0	6
Milling, James, Atl.	1	0	1	0	6
Mitchell, Brian, Wash.	1	1	0	0	6
Montana, Joe, S.F.	1	1	0	0	6
Mrosko, Bob, Giants	1	0	1	0	6
Patterson, Shawn, G.B.	1	0	0	1	6
Peebles, Danny, T.B.	1	0	1	0	6
Quick, Mike, Phil.	1	0	1	0	6
Rutledge, Jeff, Wash.	1	1	0	0	6
Sanders, Thomas, Phil.	1	1	0	0	6
Scales, Greg, N.O.	1	0	1	0	6
Sharpe, Luis, Phoe.	1	0	1	0	6
Simmons, Clyde, Phil.	1	0	0	1	6
Simms, Phil, Giants	1	1	0	0	6
Taylor, Lawrence, Giants	1	0	0	1	6
Testaverde, Vinny, T.B.	1	1	0	0	6
Thomas, George, Atl.	1	0	1	0	6
Thornton, James, Chi.	1	0	1	0	6
Tillman, Lewis, Giants	1	1	0	0	6
Tuggle, Jessie, Atl.	1	0	0	1	6
Vick, Roger, Phil.	1	1	0	0	6
Walls, Everson, Giants	1	0	0	1	6
Walton, Alvin, Wash.	1	0	0	1	6
Warner, Curt, Rams	1	1	0	0	6
Warren, Don, Wash.	1	0	1	0	6
Weathers, Clarence, G.B.	1	0	1	0	6
White, William, Det.	1	0	0	1	6
Wilder, James, Det.	1	0	1	0	6
Williams, Jimmy, Det.	1	0	0	1	6
Woodside, Keith, G.B.	1	1	0	0	6
Workman, Vince, G.B.	1	0	1	0	6
Wright, Alexander, Dall.	1	0	0	1	6
Doleman, Chris, Minn.	0	0	0	0	*2
Dusabek, Mark, Minn.	0	0	0	0	*2
Green, Tim, Atl.	0	0	0	0	*2
Turner, Keena, S.F.	0	0	0	0	*2

* Safety

RUSHING

RECORDS

Carries: 407, James Wilder, Tampa Bay (1984)

Yards: 2,105, Eric Dickerson, Los Angeles (1984)

TDs: 24, John Riggins, Washington (1983)

	ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Philadelphia	540	2556	4.7	152	10
Chicago	551	2436	4.4	52	22
Washington	515	2083	4.0	26	16
N.Y. Giants	541	2049	3.8	51	17
Detroit	366	1927	5.3	145	19
Phoenix	452	1912	4.2	41	13
Minnesota	455	1867	4.1	158	10
New Orleans	464	1850	4.0	160	14
San Francisco	454	1718	3.8	174	12

PASSING

RECORDS

Completions: 353, Don Majkowski, Green Bay (1989)

Touchdowns: 36, Y.A. Tittle, New York (1963)

Yards: 4,614, Neil Lomax, St. Louis (1984)

Longest for TD: 99 yards, Frank Filchock to Andy Farkas, Washington (1939)

99 yards, George Izo to Bobby Mitchell, Washington (1963)

99 yards, Karl Sweetan to Pat Studstill, Detroit (1966)

99 yards, Sonny Jurgensen to Gerry Allen, Washington (1968)

99 yards, Ron Jaworski to Mike Quick, Philadelphia (1985)

	ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS	AVG	TD	PCT TD	LONG	INT	PCT INT	SACK	YDS LOST	RATING
Simms, Phil, <i>Giants</i>	311	184	59.2	2284	7.34	15	4.8	180	4	1.3	20	104	92.7
Cunningham, Randall, <i>Phil.</i>	465	271	58.3	3466	7.45	30	6.5	195	13	2.8	49	431	91.6
Montana, Joe, <i>S.F.</i>	520	321	61.7	3944	7.58	26	5.0	178	16	3.1	29	153	89.0
Harbaugh, Jim, <i>Chi.</i>	312	180	57.7	2178	6.98	10	3.2	180	6	1.9	31	206	81.9
Peete, Rodney, <i>Det.</i>	271	142	52.4	1974	7.28	13	4.8	168	8	3.0	27	173	79.8
Everett, Jim, <i>Rams</i>	554	307	55.4	3989	7.20	23	4.2	155	17	3.1	30	198	79.3
Miller, Chris, <i>Atl.</i>	388	222	57.2	2735	7.05	17	4.4	175	14	3.6	26	167	78.7
Rypien, Mark, <i>Wash.</i>	304	166	54.6	2070	6.81	16	5.3	153	11	3.6	6	33	78.4
Testaverde, Vinny, <i>T.B.</i>	365	203	55.6	2818	7.72	17	4.7	189	18	4.9	38	330	75.6
Majkowski, Don, <i>G.B.</i>	264	150	56.8	1925	7.29	10	3.8	176	12	4.5	32	178	73.5
Rosenbach, Timm, <i>Phoe.</i>	437	237	54.2	3098	7.09	16	3.7	168	17	3.9	43	285	72.8
Gannon, Rich, <i>Minn.</i>	349	182	52.1	2278	6.53	16	4.6	178	16	4.6	34	188	68.9
Walsh, Steve, <i>Dall.-N.O.</i>	336	179	53.3	2010	5.98	12	3.6	58	13	3.9	10	76	67.2
Aikman, Troy, <i>Dall.</i>	399	226	56.6	2579	6.46	11	2.8	161	18	4.5	39	288	66.6

NON-QUALIFIERS (10 or more attempts)

Young, Steve, <i>S.F.</i>	62	38	61.3	427	6.89	2	3.2	134	0	0.0	8	41	92.6
Willis, Peter Tom, <i>Chi.</i>	13	9	69.2	106	8.15	1	7.7	18	1	7.7	1	7	87.3
Hostetler, Jeff, <i>Giants</i>	87	47	54.0	614	7.06	3	3.4	144	1	1.1	9	38	83.2
Rutledge, Jeff, <i>Wash.</i>	68	40	58.8	455	6.69	2	2.9	40	1	1.5	6	34	82.7
Millen, Hugh, <i>Atl.</i>	63	34	54.0	427	6.78	1	1.6	53	0	0.0	11	43	80.6
Wilson, Wade, <i>Minn.</i>	146	82	56.2	1155	7.91	9	6.2	175	8	5.5	15	90	79.6
Kiel, Blair, <i>G.B.</i>	85	51	60.0	504	5.93	2	2.4	22	2	2.4	8	62	74.8
Gagliano, Bob, <i>Det.</i>	159	87	54.7	1190	7.48	10	6.3	147	10	6.3	13	83	73.6
Dilweg, Anthony, <i>G.B.</i>	192	101	52.6	1267	6.60	8	4.2	59	7	3.6	22	150	72.1
Campbell, Scott, <i>Atl.</i>	76	36	47.4	527	6.93	3	3.9	70	4	5.3	9	55	61.7
Humphries, Stan, <i>Wash.</i>	156	91	58.3	1015	6.51	3	1.9	44	10	6.4	9	62	57.5
Fourcade, John, <i>N.O.</i>	116	50	43.1	785	6.77	3	2.6	168	8	6.9	8	44	46.1
Ware, Andre, <i>Det.</i>	30	13	43.3	164	5.47	1	3.3	33	2	6.7	4	22	44.3
Tomczak, Mike, <i>Chi.</i>	104	39	37.5	521	5.01	3	2.9	48	5	4.8	11	70	43.8
Chandler, Chris, <i>T.B.</i>	83	42	50.6	464	5.59	1	1.2	168	6	7.2	15	103	41.4
Laulenberg, Babe, <i>Dall.</i>	67	24	35.8	279	4.16	1	1.5	127	6	9.0	4	29	16.9

PUNTING

RECORDS

Number: 114, Bob Parsons, Chicago (1981)

Average: 51.4 yards, Sammy Baugh, Washington (1940)

Longest: 94 yards, Joe Lintzenich, Chicago (1931)

	NO	YARDS	LONG	AVG	TB	BLK	OPP	RET	RET YDS	IN 20	NET AVG
Landeta, Sean, <i>Giants</i>	75	3306	67	44.1	11	0	41	291	24	37.3	
Saxon, Mike, <i>Dall.</i>	79	3413	62	43.2	8	0	43	438	20	35.6	
Camarillo, Rich, <i>Phoe.</i>	67	2865	63	42.8	5	0	41	258	16	37.4	
Barnhardt, Tommy, <i>N.O.</i>	70	2990	65	42.7	6	1	43	302	20	36.2	
Newsome, Harry, <i>Minn.</i>	78	3299	61	42.3	8	1	44	513	19	33.2	
Feagles, Jeff, <i>Phil.</i>	72	3026	60	42.0	3	2	37	338	20	35.5	
Fulhage, Scott, <i>Atl.</i>	70	2913	59	41.6	4	0	39	314	15	36.0	
Arnold, Jim, <i>Det.</i>	63	2560	59	40.6	5	0	29	233	10	35.3	
Buford, Maury, <i>Chi.</i>	76	3073	59	40.4	7	2	39	322	22	33.5	
Royals, Mark, <i>T.B.</i>	72	2902	62	40.3	5	0	39	352	8	34.0	
Mojsiejenko, Rafi, <i>Wash.</i>	43	1687	53	39.2	0	1	25	182	17	34.2	
English, Keith, <i>Rams</i>	68	2663	58	39.2	2	1	46	420	8	31.9	
Bracken, Don, <i>G.B.</i>	64	2431	59	38.0	2	1	34	266	17	32.7	
Hellon, Barry, <i>S.F.</i>	69	2537	56	36.8	8	1	30	215	15	30.9	

NON-QUALIFIERS

Goodburn, Kelly, *K.C.-Wash.*..... 28

Leader based on average, minimum 40 punts

Tampa Bay.....	410	1626	4.0	148	7	Smith, Emmitt, <i>Dall.</i>	241	937	3.9	148	11
L.A. Rams.....	422	1612	3.8	48	17	Johnson, Johnny, <i>Phoe.</i>	234	926	4.0	41	5
Atlanta.....	420	1594	3.8	67	11	Gary, Cleveland, <i>Rams</i>	204	808	4.0	48	14
Dallas.....	393	1500	3.8	148	13	Anderson, Ottis, <i>Giants</i>	225	784	3.5	28	11
Green Bay.....	350	1369	3.9	37	5	Walker, Herschel, <i>Minn.</i>	184	770	4.2	158	5
						Rozier, Mike, <i>Hou.-Atl.</i>	163	717	4.4	67	3
						Sherman, Heath, <i>Phil.</i>	164	685	4.2	36	1
						Musters, Brad, <i>Chi.</i>	141	664	4.7	28	6
						Anderson, Gary, <i>T.B.</i>	166	646	3.9	22	3
						Heyward, Craig, <i>N.O.</i>	129	599	4.6	147	4

continued

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Mayer, Rueben, N.O.	138	510	3.7	18	7
Cobb, Reggie, T.B.	151	480	3.2	17	2
Riggs, Gerald, Wash.	123	475	3.9	20	6
Rosenbach, Timm, Phoe	86	470	5.5	25	3
Carter, Dexter, S.F.	114	460	4.0	174	1
Hampton, Rodney, Giants	109	455	4.2	41	2
Broussard, Steve, Atl.	126	454	3.6	150	4
Toney, Anthony, Phil.	132	452	3.4	20	1
Craig, Roger, S.F.	141	439	3.1	26	1
Thompson, Anthony, Phoe	106	390	3.7	40	4
Fenney, Rick, Minn.	87	376	4.3	27	2



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Peete, Rodney, Det.	47	363	7.7	37	6
Fenerty, Gill, N.O.	73	355	4.9	160	2
Harbaugh, Jim, Chi.	51	321	6.3	17	4
Rathman, Tom, S.F.	101	318	3.1	22	7
Haddix, Michael, G.B.	98	311	3.2	13	0
Hilliard, Dalton, N.O.	90	284	3.2	17	0
Testaverde, Vinny, T.B.	38	280	7.4	148	1
Gannon, Rich, Minn.	52	268	5.2	27	1
Thompson, Darrell, G.B.	76	264	3.5	37	1
Green, Gaston, Rams	68	261	3.8	31	0
McGee, Buford, Rams	44	234	5.3	19	1
Tillman, Lewis, Giants	84	231	2.8	17	1
Agee, Tommie, Dall.	53	213	4.0	28	0
Sanders, Thomas, Phil.	56	208	3.7	39	1
Anderson, Alfred, Minn.	59	207	3.5	14	2
Hostetler, Jeff, Giants	39	190	4.9	30	2
Majkowski, Don, G.B.	29	186	6.4	24	1
Jones, Keith, Atl.	49	185	3.8	22	0
Woodside, Keith, G.B.	46	182	4.0	21	1
Aikman, Troy, Dall.	40	172	4.3	20	1
Sydney, Harry, S.F.	35	166	4.7	19	2
Meggett, Dave, Giants	22	164	7.5	51	0
Montana, Joe, S.F.	40	162	4.1	20	1
Young, Steve, S.F.	15	159	10.6	31	0
Gagliano, Bob, Det.	46	145	3.2	22	0
Carthon, Maurice, Giants	36	143	4.0	12	0
Byars, Keith, Phil.	37	141	3.8	23	0
Warner, Curt, Rams	49	139	2.8	9	1
Green, Mark, Chi.	27	126	4.7	14	0
Fullwood, Brent, G.B.	44	124	2.8	16	1
Dilweg, Anthony, G.B.	21	114	5.4	22	0
Harvey, John, T.B.	27	113	4.2	14	0
Humphries, Stan, Wash.	23	106	4.6	17	2
Johnson, Tracy, Atl.	30	106	3.5	12	3
Miller, Chris, Atl.	26	99	3.8	18	1
Bailey, Johnny, Chi.	26	86	3.3	9	0
Dupard, Reggie, Wash.	19	85	4.5	11	0

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Flagler, Terrence, <i>Phoe</i>	13	85	6.5	129	1
Mitchell, Brian, <i>Wash</i>	15	81	5.4	21	1
Wilson, Wade, <i>Minn</i>	12	79	6.6	24	0
Fourcade, John, <i>N.O.</i>	15	77	5.1	12	1
Fontenot, Herman, <i>G.B.</i>	17	76	4.5	18	0
Rice, Allen, <i>Minn</i>	22	74	3.4	13	0
Dupree, Marcus, <i>Rams</i>	19	72	3.8	13	0
Chandler, Chris, <i>T.B.</i>	13	71	5.5	18	1
Ware, Andre, <i>Det</i>	7	64	9.1	30	0
Simms, Phil, <i>Giants</i>	21	61	2.9	20	1
Monk, Art, <i>Wash</i>	7	59	8.4	26	0
Vick, Roger, <i>Phil</i>	16	58	3.6	17	1
Rouse, James, <i>Chi</i>	16	56	3.5	10	0
Delpino, Robert, <i>Rams</i>	13	52	4.0	13	0
Wilder, James, <i>Det</i>	11	51	4.6	13	0
Workman, Vince, <i>G.B.</i>	8	51	6.4	31	0
Clark, Jessie, <i>Minn</i>	16	49	3.1	11	0
Highsmith, Alonzo, <i>Dall</i>	19	48	2.5	7	0
Dixon, James, <i>Dall</i>	11	43	3.9	18	0
Gentry, Dennis, <i>Chi</i>	11	43	3.9	11	0
Tomczak, Mike, <i>Chi</i>	12	41	3.4	14	2
Query, Jeff, <i>G.B.</i>	3	39	13.0	18	0
Campbell, Scott, <i>Atl</i>	9	38	4.2	20	0
Perkins, Bruce, <i>T.B.</i>	13	36	2.8	9	0
Johnston, Daryl, <i>Dall</i>	10	35	3.5	8	1
Drummond, Robert, <i>Phil</i>	8	33	4.1	9	1
Jones, Ernie, <i>Phoe</i>	4	33	8.3	15	0
Everett, Jim, <i>Rams</i>	20	31	1.6	15	1
Morris, Ron, <i>Chi</i>	2	26	13.0	16	0
Wright, Alexander, <i>Dall</i>	3	26	8.7	14	0
Walsh, Steve, <i>Dall-N.O.</i>	20	25	1.3	18	0
Bryant, Kelvin, <i>Wash</i>	6	24	4.0	12	0
Lang, Gene, <i>Atl</i>	9	24	2.7	9	0
Ellard, Henry, <i>Rams</i>	2	21	10.5	13	0
Saxon, Mike, <i>Dall</i>	1	20	20.0	20	0
Williams, Calvin, <i>Phil</i>	2	20	10.0	18	0
Smith, Cedric, <i>Minn</i>	9	19	2.1	7	0
Sanders, Ricky, <i>Wash</i>	4	17	4.3	12	0
Carter, Anthony, <i>Minn</i>	3	16	5.3	11	0
Settle, John, <i>Atl</i>	9	16	1.8	4	0
Henderson, Keith, <i>S.F.</i>	6	14	2.3	9	0
Rouson, Lee, <i>Giants</i>	3	14	4.7	6	0
Sharpe, Sterling, <i>G.B.</i>	2	14	7.0	10	0
Anderson, Willie, <i>Rams</i>	1	13	13.0	13	0
Barnett, Fred, <i>Phil</i>	2	13	6.5	12	0
Dozier, D.J., <i>Minn</i>	6	12	2.0	4	0
Rutledge, Jeff, <i>Wash</i>	4	12	3.0	112	1

PASS RECEIVING

RECORDS

Receptions: 106, Art Monk, Washington (1984)

Yards: 1,570, Jerry Rice, San Francisco (1986)

TDs: 22, Jerry Rice, San Francisco (1987)

5 or more receptions	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Rice, Jerry, <i>S.F.</i>	100	1502	15.0	164	13
Rison, Andre, <i>Atl</i>	82	1208	14.7	175	10
Byars, Keith, <i>Phil</i>	81	819	10.1	54	3
Ellard, Henry, <i>Rams</i>	76	1294	17.0	150	4
Clark, Gary, <i>Wash</i>	75	1112	14.8	153	8
Carter, Anthony, <i>Minn</i>	70	1008	14.4	156	8
Monk, Art, <i>Wash</i>	68	770	11.3	44	5
Sharpe, Sterling, <i>G.B.</i>	67	1105	16.5	176	6
Martin, Kelvin, <i>Dall</i>	64	732	11.4	45	0
Johnson, Richard, <i>Det</i>	64	727	11.4	144	6
Martin, Eric, <i>N.O.</i>	63	912	14.5	58	5
Novacek, Jay, <i>Dall</i>	59	657	11.1	41	4
Proehl, Ricky, <i>Phoe</i>	56	802	14.3	145	4
Jones, Brent, <i>S.F.</i>	56	747	13.3	167	5
Sanders, Ricky, <i>Wash</i>	56	727	13.0	38	3
Green, Roy, <i>Phoe</i>	53	797	15.0	54	4
Cark, Robert, <i>Det</i>	52	914	17.6	57	8
Anderson, Willie, <i>Rams</i>	51	1097	21.5	155	4
Jones, Hassan, <i>Minn</i>	51	810	15.9	175	7
Jackson, Keith, <i>Phil</i>	50	670	13.4	137	6
Carrier, Mark, <i>T.B.</i>	49	813	16.6	168	4
Taylor, John, <i>S.F.</i>	49	748	15.3	178	7
Holohan, Pete, <i>Rams</i>	49	475	9.7	28	2
Rathman, Tom, <i>S.F.</i>	48	327	6.8	28	0
Muste, Brad, <i>Chi</i>	47	452	9.6	48	0
McGee, Buford, <i>Rams</i>	47	388	8.3	25	4
Jordan, Steve, <i>Minn</i>	45	636	14.1	38	3

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NFCstatistics

Kemp, Perry, G.B.	44	527	12.0	29	2
Jones, Ernie, Phoe	43	724	16.8	168	4
Hill, Bruce, T.B.	42	641	15.3	148	5
Anderson, Neal, Chi.	42	484	11.5	150	3
Davis, Wendell, Chi.	39	572	14.7	51	3
Meggett, Dave, Giants	39	410	10.5	38	1
Cobb, Reggie, T.B.	39	299	7.7	17	0
Anderson, Gary, T.B.	38	464	12.2	74	2
Dixon, Floyd, Atl.	38	399	10.5	34	4
Williams, Calvin, Phil.	37	602	16.3	145	9
Barnett, Fred, Phil.	36	721	20.0	195	8
Sanders, Barry, Del.	36	480	13.3	147	3
Perriman, Brett, N.O.	36	382	10.6	29	2
Walker, Herschel, Minn.	35	315	9.0	32	4
Collins, Shawn, Atl.	34	503	14.8	61	2
Query, Jeff, G.B.	34	458	13.5	147	2
Bavaro, Mark, Giants	33	393	11.9	61	5
Weathers, Clarence, G.B.	33	390	11.8	29	1
Hampton, Rodney, Giants	32	274	8.6	127	2
Hall, Ron, T.B.	31	464	15.0	154	2
Haynes, Michael, Atl.	31	445	14.4	60	0
Morris, Ron, Chi.	31	437	14.1	167	3
Fontenot, Herman, G.B.	31	293	9.5	59	1
Byner, Earnest, Wash.	31	279	9.0	19	1
Matthews, Aubrey, Del.	30	349	11.6	52	1
Agee, Tommie, Dall.	30	272	9.1	30	1
Gary, Cleveland, Rams	30	150	5.0	122	1
Carter, Cris, Minn.	27	413	15.3	178	3
West, Ed, G.B.	27	356	13.2	50	5
Baker, Stephen, Giants	26	541	20.8	180	4
Ingram, Mark, Giants	26	499	19.2	157	5
Bryant, Kelvin, Wash.	26	248	9.5	37	1
Johnson, Johnny, Phoe.	25	241	9.6	35	0
Carter, Dexter, S.F.	25	217	8.7	26	0
Craig, Roger, S.F.	25	201	8.0	31	0
Smith, Emmitt, Dall.	24	228	9.5	57	0
Woodside, Keith, G.B.	24	184	7.7	25	0
Broussard, Steve, Atl.	24	160	6.7	18	0
Gentry, Dennis, Chi.	23	320	13.9	180	2
Sherman, Heath, Phil.	23	167	7.3	26	3
Turner, Floyd, N.O.	21	396	18.9	168	4
Irvin, Michael, Dall.	20	413	20.7	161	5
Greer, Terry, Del.	20	332	16.6	168	3
Thornton, James, Chi.	19	254	13.4	32	1
Campbell, Jeff, Del.	19	236	12.4	51	2
Thomas, George, Atl.	18	383	21.3	72	1
Smith, J.T., Phoe.	18	225	12.5	145	2
Fenerty, Gill, N.O.	18	209	11.6	28	0
Shuler, Mickey, Phil.	18	190	10.6	25	0
Milling, James, Atl.	18	161	8.9	24	1
Anderson, Otis, Giants	18	139	7.7	18	0
Reeves, Walter, Phoe.	18	126	7.0	16	0
Heyward, Craig, N.O.	18	121	6.7	12	0
Cox, Aaron, Rams	17	266	15.6	32	0
Sherrard, Mike, S.F.	17	264	15.5	43	2
Brenner, Hoby, N.O.	17	213	12.5	131	2
Toney, Anthony, Phil.	17	133	7.8	32	3
Fenney, Rick, Minn.	17	112	6.6	17	0
Johnson, Jimmie, Wash.	15	218	14.5	35	2
Delpino, Robert, Rams	15	172	11.5	142	4
Warren, Don, Wash.	15	123	8.2	18	1
McKinnon, Dennis, Dall.	14	172	12.3	128	1
Carlton, Maurice, Giants	14	151	10.8	63	0
Johnston, Daryl, Dall.	14	148	10.6	26	1
Hilliard, Dalton, N.O.	14	125	8.9	20	1
Awalt, Robert, Dall.	13	133	10.2	25	0
Flagler, Terrence, Phoe.	13	130	10.0	21	1
Rozier, Mike, Hou.-Atl.	13	105	8.1	24	0
Jones, Keith, Atl.	13	103	7.9	16	0
Haddix, Michael, G.B.	13	94	7.2	28	2
Anderson, Alfred, Minn.	13	80	6.2	17	0
Wilkins, Gary, Atl.	12	175	14.6	37	2
Farr, Mike, Del.	12	170	14.2	44	0
Harris, Jackie, G.B.	12	157	13.1	26	0
Mayes, Rueben, N.O.	12	121	10.1	66	0
Johnson, Damone, Rams	12	66	5.5	11	3
Manuel, Lionel, Giants	11	169	15.4	19	0
Boso, Cap, Chi.	11	135	12.3	25	1
Tice, John, N.O.	11	113	10.3	19	0
Wright, Alexander, Dall.	11	104	9.5	20	0
Harvey, John, T.B.	11	86	7.8	18	1
Sydney, Harry, S.F.	10	116	11.6	123	1
Johnson, Tracy, Atl.	10	79	7.9	16	1

Quick, Mike, Phil.	9	135	15.0	39	1
Williams, Jamie, S.F.	9	54	6.0	9	0
Pillow, Frank, T.B.	8	118	14.8	23	0
Phillips, Jason, Del.	8	112	14.0	29	0
Cross, Howard, Giants	8	106	13.3	21	0
Perkins, Bruce, T.B.	8	85	10.6	34	2
Scales, Greg, N.O.	8	64	8.0	20	1
Carter, Pat, Rams	8	58	7.3	16	0
Tillman, Lewis, Giants	8	18	2.3	16	0
Drewrey, Willie, T.B.	7	182	26.0	189	1
Wilson, Mike, S.F.	7	89	12.7	34	0
Wilson, Charles, G.B.	7	84	12.0	18	0
Kozlowski, Glen, Chi.	7	83	11.9	32	0
Riggs, Gerald, Wash.	7	60	8.6	18	0
Sikahema, Vai, Phoe.	7	51	7.3	13	0
Turner, Odessa, Giants	6	69	11.5	18	0
Peebles, Danny, T.B.	6	50	8.3	18	1
Anderson, Jesse, T.B.	5	77	15.4	52	0
Lewis, Ronald, S.F.	5	44	8.8	14	0
Drummond, Robert, Phil.	5	39	7.8	29	0
Walls, Wesley, S.F.	5	27	5.4	11	0



INTERCEPTIONS

RECORDS

Number: 14, Dick Lane, Los Angeles (1952)

Yards: 301, Don Doll, Detroit (1949)

Longest return: 102 yards,

Bob Smith, Detroit (1949)

Erich Barnes, New York (1961)

TDs: 3, Dick Lynch, New York (1963)

3, Herb Adderley, Green Bay (1965)

3, Monte Jackson, Los Angeles (1976)

3, Rod Perry, Los Angeles (1976)

3, Ronnie Lott, San Francisco (1981)

3, Wayne Haddix, Tampa Bay (1990)

2 or more	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Carrier, Mark, <i>Chi.</i>	10	39	3.9	14	0
Haddix, Wayne, <i>T.B.</i>	7	231	33.0	165	3
Browner, Joey, <i>Minn.</i>	7	103	14.7	31	1
Waymer, Dave, <i>S.F.</i>	7	64	9.1	24	0
Mayhew, Martin, <i>Wash.</i>	7	20	2.9	15	0
Walls, Everson, <i>Giants</i>	6	80	13.3	40	1
Stinson, Lemuel, <i>Chi.</i>	6	66	11.0	30	0
White, William, <i>Del.</i>	5	120	24.0	48	1

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Hopkins, Wes, <i>Phi.</i>	5	45	9.0	21	0
Hamilton, Harry, <i>T.B.</i>	5	39	7.8	27	0
Jackson, Greg, <i>Giants</i>	5	8	1.6	5	0
Robinson, Mark, <i>T.B.</i>	4	81	20.3	27	0
McDonald, Tim, <i>Phoe.</i>	4	63	15.8	38	0
Humphery, Bobby, <i>Rams</i>	4	52	13.0	144	1
Newsome, Vince, <i>Rams</i>	4	47	11.8	22	0
Green, Darrell, <i>Wash.</i>	4	20	5.0	118	1
Sanders, Deion, <i>Atl.</i>	3	153	51.0	182	2
Merriweather, Mike, <i>Minn.</i>	3	108	36.0	73	0
Frizzell, William, <i>Phil.</i>	3	91	30.3	37	1
Bowles, Todd, <i>Wash.</i>	3	74	24.7	43	0
Holt, Issiac, <i>Dall.</i>	3	72	24.0	164	1
Reynolds, Rickey, <i>T.B.</i>	3	70	23.3	46	0
Taylor, Jay, <i>Phoe.</i>	3	50	16.7	34	0
Butler, LeRoy, <i>G.B.</i>	3	42	14.0	28	0
Holmes, Jerry, <i>G.B.</i>	3	39	13.0	24	0
Case, Scott, <i>Atl.</i>	3	38	12.7	136	1
Allen, Eric, <i>Phil.</i>	3	37	12.3	135	1
Griffin, Don, <i>S.F.</i>	3	32	10.7	23	0
Everett, Eric, <i>T.B.</i>	3	28	9.3	23	0
Lott, Ronnie, <i>S.F.</i>	3	26	8.7	15	0
Washington, James, <i>Dall.</i>	3	24	8.0	13	0
Dent, Richard, <i>Chi.</i>	3	21	7.0	15	0
McMillian, Audray, <i>Minn.</i>	3	20	6.7	20	0
Woodford, Donnell, <i>Chi.</i>	3	18	6.0	9	0
Crockett, Ray, <i>Det.</i>	3	17	5.7	9	0
Dimry, Charles, <i>Atl.</i>	3	16	5.3	13	0
Jordan, Brian, <i>Atl.</i>	3	14	4.7	14	0
Reasons, Gary, <i>Giants</i>	3	13	4.3	10	0
Murphy, Mark, <i>G.B.</i>	3	6	2.0	4	0
Williams, Perry, <i>Giants</i>	3	4	1.3	4	0
Smith, Ben, <i>Phil.</i>	3	1	0.3	1	0
Butler, Bobby, <i>Atl.</i>	3	0	0.0	0	0
Walton, Alvin, <i>Wash.</i>	2	118	59.0	61	1
Maxie, Brett, <i>N.O.</i>	2	88	44.0	150	1
Cook, Toi, <i>N.O.</i>	2	55	27.5	50	0
Mack, Cedric, <i>Phoe.</i>	2	53	26.5	39	0
Paul, Markus, <i>Chi.</i>	2	49	24.5	26	0
Edwards, Brad, <i>Wash.</i>	2	33	16.5	33	0
Lee, Carl, <i>Minn.</i>	2	29	14.5	25	0
Stephen, Scott, <i>G.B.</i>	2	26	13.0	26	0
Blades, Bennie, <i>Det.</i>	2	25	12.5	21	0
Rutland, Reggie, <i>Minn.</i>	2	21	10.5	16	0
Mitchell, Roland, <i>Atl.</i>	2	16	8.0	16	0
Atkins, Gene, <i>N.O.</i>	2	15	7.5	15	0
Rivera, Ron, <i>Chi.</i>	2	13	6.5	13	0
Morrissey, Jim, <i>Chi.</i>	2	12	6.0	12	0
Brim, Michael, <i>Minn.</i>	2	11	5.5	11	0
Young, Lonnie, <i>Phoe.</i>	2	8	4.0	5	0
Rice, Rodney, <i>T.B.</i>	2	7	3.5	4	0
Gayle, Shaun, <i>Chi.</i>	2	5	2.5	5	0
Jax, Garth, <i>Phoe.</i>	2	5	2.5	4	0
Collins, Mark, <i>Giants</i>	2	0	0.0	0	0
Newman, Anthony, <i>Rams</i>	2	0	0.0	0	0
Thompson, Bennie, <i>N.O.</i>	2	0	0.0	0	0

PUNT RETURNS

RECORDS

Number: 70, Danny Reece, Tampa Bay 1979)

Yards: 646, Eddie Brown, Washington (1976)

Longest for TD: 98 yards,

Gill Lefebvre, Cincinnati (1933)

Charlie West, Minnesota (1968)

Dennis Morgan, Dallas (1974)

2 or more	NO	FC	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Bailey, Johnny, <i>Chi.</i>	36	13	399	11.1	195	1
Meggett, Dave, <i>Giants</i>	43	12	467	10.9	168	1
Gray, Mel, <i>Det.</i>	34	7	361	10.6	39	0
Query, Jeff, <i>G.B.</i>	32	7	308	9.6	25	0
Sanders, Deion, <i>Atl.</i>	29	13	250	8.6	179	1
Sikahema, Vai, <i>Phoe.</i>	36	6	306	8.5	20	0
Buck, Vince, <i>N.O.</i>	37	8	305	8.2	33	0
Taylor, John, <i>S.F.</i>	26	5	212	8.2	30	0
Drewrey, Willie, <i>T.B.</i>	23	15	184	8.0	16	0
Harris, Rod, <i>Dall.-Phil.</i>	28	8	214	7.6	30	0
Stanley, Walter, <i>Wash.</i>	24	8	176	7.3	32	0
Lewis, Leo, <i>Clev.-Minn.</i>	33	22	236	7.2	30	0
Shepard, Derrick, <i>Dall.</i>	20	1	121	6.1	13	0

NON-QUALIFIERS

Henley, Darryl, <i>Rams</i>	19	4	195	10.3	26	0
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continued

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NFCstatistics

Griffin, Don, S.F.	16	8	105	6.6	20	0
Sutton, Mickey, Rams	14	3	136	9.7	22	0
Mitchell, Brian, Wash.	12	4	107	8.9	26	0
Hargrove, Marvin, Phil.	12	2	83	6.9	13	0
Howard, Joe, Wash.	10	4	99	9.9	21	0
Morse, Bobby, N.O.	8	1	95	11.9	18	0
Edwards, Anthony, Phil.	8	7	60	7.5	13	0
Hillary, Ira, Minn.	8	4	45	5.6	12	0
Martin, Kelvin, Dall.	5	3	46	9.2	17	0
Davis, Eric, S.F.	5	3	38	7.6	24	0
Smith, J.T., Phoe.	3	0	34	11.3	16	0
Bellamy, Mike, Phil.	2	0	22	11.0	22	0
McKinnon, Dennis, Dall.	2	1	20	10.0	20	0
Jordan, Brian, Atl.	2	4	19	9.5	10	0
Ellard, Henry, Rams	2	0	15	7.5	8	0
Rison, Andre, Atl.	2	0	10	5.0	8	0
Williams, Calvin, Phil.	2	0	-1	-0.5	0	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

RECORDS

Numbers: 60, Drew Hill, Los Angeles (1981)

Yards: 1,345, Buster Rhymes, Minnesota (1985)

Longest: 106 yards,

Al Carmichael, Green Bay (1956)

Roy Green, St. Louis (1979)

TDs: 4, Travis Williams, Green Bay (1967)

4, Cecil Turner, Chicago (1970)

3 or more	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Meggett, David, Giants	21	492	23.4	58	0
Gray, Mel, Det.	41	939	22.9	65	0
Wilson, Charles, G.B.	35	798	22.8	36	0
Green, Gaston, Rams	25	560	22.4	199	1
Walker, Herschel, Minn.	44	966	22.0	64	0
Sanders, Deion, Atl.	39	851	21.8	50	0
Dixon, James, Dall.	36	736	20.4	47	0
Fenerty, Gill, N.O.	28	572	20.4	58	0
Sikahema, Vai, Phoe.	27	544	20.1	32	0
Delpino, Robert, Rams	120	389	19.5	38	0
Howard, Joe, Wash.	22	427	19.4	35	0
Carter, Dexter, S.F.	41	783	19.1	35	0
Hampton, Rodney, Giants	20	340	17.0	33	0
Bailey, Johnny, Chi.	23	363	15.8	30	0

NON-QUALIFIERS

Atkins, Gene, N.O.	19	471	24.8	50	0
Hargrove, Marvin, Phil.	19	341	17.9	30	0
Gentry, Dennis, Chi.	18	388	21.6	59	0
Peebles, Danny, T.B.	18	369	20.5	55	0
Mitchell, Brian, Wash.	18	365	20.3	37	0
Berry, Latin, Rams	17	315	18.5	29	0
Centers, Larry, Phoe.	16	272	17.0	26	0
Sanders, Thomas, Phil.	15	299	19.9	37	0
Drewrey, Willie, T.B.	14	244	17.4	29	0
Workman, Vince, G.B.	14	210	15.0	26	0
Oldham, Chris, Det.	13	234	18.0	42	0
Wright, Alexander, Dall.	12	276	23.0	190	1
Campbell, Jeff, Det.	12	238	19.8	38	0
Harvey, John, T.B.	12	207	17.3	27	0
Rice, Allen, Minn.	12	176	14.7	24	0
Cobb, Reggie, T.B.	11	223	20.3	45	0
Flagler, Terrence, Phoe.	10	167	16.7	27	0
Stanley, Walter, Wash.	9	177	19.7	37	0
Jones, Keith, Atl.	8	236	29.5	176	1
Green, Mark, Chi.	7	112	16.0	20	0
Bland, Carl, G.B.	7	104	14.9	24	0
Jackson, Kenny, Phil.	6	125	20.8	30	0
Anderson, Gary, T.B.	6	123	20.5	37	0
Tillman, Spencer, S.F.	6	111	18.5	30	0
Hobbs, Stevie, Wash.	6	92	15.3	21	0
Shepard, Derrick, Dall.	4	75	18.8	22	0
Barnett, Fred, Phil.	4	65	16.3	22	0
Morse, Bobby, N.O.	4	56	14.0	18	0
Proehl, Ricky, Phoe.	4	53	13.3	15	0
Thompson, Darrell, G.B.	3	103	34.3	176	1
Fontenot, Herman, G.B.	3	88	29.3	50	0
Broussard, Steve, Atl.	3	45	15.0	23	0
Anderson, Alfred, Minn.	3	44	14.7	24	0
Ingram, Mark, Giants	3	42	14.0	26	0
Lewis, Leo, Minn.	3	39	13.0	15	0
Buck, Vince, N.O.	3	38	12.7	17	0
Edwards, Anthony, Phil.	13	36	12.0	14	0
Rouse, James, Chi.	3	17	5.7	10	0

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AFC STATISTICS

RECORDS

Points: 155, Gino Cappelletti, Boston (1964)
 Touchdowns: 23, O.J. Simpson, Buffalo (1975)
 Field goals: 34, Jim Turner, New York (1968)
 34, Nick Lowery, Kansas City (1990)
 Extra points: 66, Uwe von Schamann, Miami (1984)

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	SAF	POINTS
Buffalo.....	53	20	28	5	50	53	20	29	0	428
Houston.....	49	10	37	2	46	49	21	32	1	405
Kansas City.....	38	11	23	4	37	38	34	37	1	369
Cincinnati.....	44	16	25	3	41	44	17	22	2	360
L.A. Raiders.....	42	20	19	3	40	42	15	20	0	337
Miami.....	39	13	21	5	37	39	21	25	1	336
Denver.....	36	19	15	2	34	36	25	34	3	331
San Diego.....	36	14	18	4	34	36	21	28	1	315
Seattle.....	34	18	15	1	33	34	23	32	0	306
N.Y. Jets.....	32	16	14	2	32	32	23	26	1	295
Pittsburgh.....	33	11	20	2	32	33	20	25	1	292
Indianapolis.....	33	9	22	2	32	33	17	24	0	281
Cleveland.....	27	10	13	4	24	27	14	20	0	228
New England.....	19	4	14	1	19	19	16	22	0	181

SCORING

Dickerson, Eric, Ind.....	4	4	0	0	24
Fryar, Irving, N.E.....	4	0	4	0	24
Kane, Tommy, Sea.....	4	0	4	0	24
Lofton, James, Buff.....	4	0	4	0	24
Metcalf, Eric, Clev.....	4	1	1	2	24
Slaughter, Webster, Clev.....	4	0	4	0	24
Thomas, Robb, K.C.....	4	0	4	0	24
Williams, Warren, Pitt.....	4	3	1	0	24
Word, Barry, K.C.....	4	4	0	0	24
Young, Mike, Den.....	4	0	4	0	24
Birden, J.J., K.C.....	3	0	3	0	18
Blades, Brian, Sea.....	3	0	3	0	18
Brown, Tim, Raiders.....	3	0	3	0	18
Clayton, Mark, Mia.....	3	0	3	0	18
Elway, John, Den.....	3	3	0	0	18
Gault, Willie, Raiders.....	3	0	3	0	18
Harris, Leonard, Hou.....	3	0	3	0	18
Hoard, Leroy, Clev.....	3	3	0	0	18
Horton, Ethan, Raiders.....	3	0	3	0	18
Johnson, Vance, Den.....	3	0	3	0	18
Lewis, Nate, S.D.....	3	1	1	1	18
Lipps, Louis, Pitt.....	3	0	3	0	18
McEwen, Craig, S.D.....	3	0	3	0	18
Mueller, Jamie, Buff.....	3	2	1	0	18
Mularkey, Mike, Pitt.....	3	0	3	0	18
Pruitt, James, Mia.....	3	0	3	0	18
Rolle, Butch, Buff.....	3	0	3	0	18
Sewell, Steve, Den.....	3	3	0	0	18
Stephens, John, N.E.....	3	2	1	0	18
Taylor, Craig, Cin.....	3	2	1	0	18
Williams, John L., Sea.....	3	3	0	0	18
Ball, Eric, Cin.....	2	1	1	0	12
Brennan, Brian, Clev.....	2	0	2	0	12
Dykes, Hart Lee, N.E.....	2	0	2	0	12
Green, Harold, Cin.....	2	1	1	0	12
Harmon, Ronnie, S.D.....	2	0	2	0	12
Harry, Emile, K.C.....	2	0	2	0	12
Hector, Johnny, Jets.....	2	2	0	0	12
Johnson, Anthony, Ind.....	2	0	2	0	12
Kattus, Eric, Cin.....	2	0	2	0	12
Langhorne, Reggie, Clev.....	2	0	2	0	12
Logan, Marc, Mia.....	2	2	0	0	12
Martin, Tony, Mia.....	2	0	2	0	12
McNair, Todd, K.C.....	2	0	2	0	12
Miller, Les, S.D.....	2	0	0	2	12
Moon, Warren, Hou.....	2	2	0	0	12
Nattiel, Ricky, Den.....	2	0	2	0	12
Newsome, Ozzie, Clev.....	2	0	2	0	12
Plummer, Gary, S.D.....	2	1	1	0	12
Skansi, Paul, Sea.....	2	0	2	0	12
Smith, Don, Buff.....	2	2	0	0	12
Tasker, Steve, Buff.....	2	0	2	0	12
Thomas, Blair, Jets.....	2	1	1	0	12
Winder, Sammy, Den.....	2	2	0	0	12
Francis, James, Cin.....	1	0	0	1	*8
Mecklenburg, Karl, Den.....	1	0	0	0	*8
Adams, George, N.E.....	1	0	1	0	6
Allen, Marvin, N.E.....	1	1	0	0	6
Barber, Mike, Cin.....	1	0	1	0	6
Beach, Pat, Ind.....	1	0	1	0	6
Beebe, Don, Buff.....	1	0	1	0	6
Bell, Greg, Raiders.....	1	1	0	0	6
Bell, Richard, Pitt.....	1	0	1	0	6
Bennett, Cornelius, Buff.....	1	0	0	1	6
Blaylock, Anthony, Clev.....	1	0	0	1	6
Boyer, Mark, Jets.....	1	0	1	0	6
Bussey, Barney, Cin.....	1	0	0	1	6
Calloway, Chris, Pitt.....	1	0	1	0	6
Caravella, Joe, S.D.....	1	0	1	0	6
Cox, Arthur, S.D.....	1	0	1	0	6
Davis, Darrell, Jets.....	1	0	0	1	6

NON-KICKERS

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	PTS
Fenner, Derrick, Sea.....	15	14	1	0	90
Allen, Marcus, Raiders.....	13	12	1	0	78
Thomas, Thurman, Buff.....	13	11	2	0	78
White, Lorenzo, Hou.....	12	8	4	0	72
Hoge, Merrill, Pitt.....	10	7	3	0	60
Brooks, James, Cin.....	9	5	4	0	54
Brown, Eddie, Cin.....	9	0	9	0	54
Givins, Ernest, Hou.....	9	0	9	0	54
Smith, Sammie, Mia.....	9	8	1	0	54
Butts, Marion, S.D.....	8	8	0	0	48
Jeffries, Haywood, Hou.....	8	0	8	0	48
Reed, Andre, Buff.....	8	0	8	0	48
Green, Eric, Pitt.....	7	0	7	0	42
Humphrey, Bobby, Den.....	7	7	0	0	42
Mack, Kevin, Clev.....	7	5	2	0	42
Miller, Anthony, S.D.....	7	0	7	0	42
Okoye, Christian, K.C.....	7	7	0	0	42
Baxter, Brad, Jets.....	6	6	0	0	36
Bentley, Albert, Ind.....	6	4	2	0	36
Hester, Jessie, Ind.....	6	0	6	0	36
Jones, Tony, Hou.....	6	0	6	0	36
McNeil, Freeman, Jets.....	6	6	0	0	36
Moore, Rob, Jets.....	6	0	6	0	36
Paige, Tony, Mia.....	6	2	4	0	36
Toon, Al, Jets.....	6	0	6	0	36
Woods, Ickey, Cin.....	6	6	0	0	36
Brooks, Bill, Ind.....	5	0	5	0	30
Cook, Marv, N.E.....	5	0	5	0	30
Davis, Kenneth, Buff.....	5	4	1	0	30
Duper, Mark, Mia.....	5	0	5	0	30
Fernandez, Mervyn, Raiders.....	5	0	5	0	30
Hill, Drew, Hou.....	5	0	5	0	30
Holman, Rodney, Cin.....	5	0	5	0	30
Jackson, Bo, Raiders.....	5	5	0	0	30
Jackson, Mark, Den.....	5	1	4	0	30
Jones, Bill, K.C.....	5	0	5	0	30
McKeller, Keith, Buff.....	5	0	5	0	30
Morgan, Stanley, Ind.....	5	0	5	0	30
Paige, Stephone, K.C.....	5	0	5	0	30
Smith, Steve, Raiders.....	5	2	3	0	30
Bernstine, Rod, S.D.....	4	4	0	0	24
Bratton, Mel, Den.....	4	3	1	0	24
Chadwick, Jeff, Sea.....	4	0	4	0	24

KICKERS

	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Lowery, Nick, K.C.....	37	38	34	37	139
Norwood, Scott, Buff.....	50	52	20	29	110
Treadwell, David, Den.....	34	36	25	34	109
Johnson, Norm, Sea.....	33	34	23	32	102
Leahy, Pat, Jets.....	32	32	23	26	101
Stoyanovich, Pete, Mia.....	37	37	21	25	100
Anderson, Gary, Pitt.....	32	32	20	25	92
Breech, Jim, Cin.....	41	44	17	21	92
Jaeger, Jeff, Raiders.....	40	42	15	20	85
Carney, John, S.D.....	27	28	19	21	84
Biasucci, Dean, Ind.....	32	33	17	24	83
Garcia, Teddy, Hou.....	26	28	14	20	68
Staurovsky, Jason, N.E.....	19	19	16	22	67
Kauric, Jerry, Clev.....	24	27	14	20	66
Zendejas, Tony, Hou.....	20	21	7	12	41

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AFCstatistics

Duncan, Curtis, Hou.	1	0	1	0	6
Early, Quinn, S.D.	1	0	1	0	6
Edmunds, Ferrell, Mia.	1	0	1	0	6
Ford, Bernard, Hou.	1	0	1	0	6
Foster, Barry, Pitt.	1	1	0	0	6
Gainer, Derrick, Clev.	1	1	0	0	6
George, Jeff, Ind.	1	1	0	0	6
Glenn, Kerry, Mia.	1	0	0	1	6
Goode, Chris, Ind.	1	0	0	1	6
Graddy, Sam, Raiders	1	0	1	0	6
Grant, Alan, Ind.	1	0	0	1	6
Hayes, Jonathan, K.C.	1	0	1	0	6
Heller, Ron, Sea.	1	0	1	0	6
Henderson, Wymon, Den.	1	0	0	1	6
Higgs, Mark, Mia.	1	0	0	1	6
Jennings, Stanford, Cin.	1	1	0	0	6
Jensen, Jim, Mia.	1	0	1	0	6
Johnson, David, Pitt.	1	0	0	1	6
Johnson, Mike, Clev.	1	0	0	1	6
Johnson, Richard, Hou.	1	0	0	1	6
Kinard, Terry, Hou.	1	0	0	1	6
Kinnebrew, Larry, Buff.	1	1	0	0	6
Martin, Chris, K.C.	1	0	0	1	6
Martin, Sammy, N.E.	1	0	1	0	6
Mathis, Terance, Jets	1	0	0	1	6
McDaniel, Terry, Raiders	1	0	0	1	6
McGee, Tim, Cin.	1	0	1	0	6
Metzelaars, Pete, Buff.	1	0	1	0	6
Odom, Cliff, Mia.	1	0	0	1	6
Odomes, Nate, Buff.	1	0	0	1	6
Perryman, Bob, N.E.	1	1	0	0	6
Petry, Stan, K.C.	1	0	0	1	6
Price, Mitchell, Cin.	1	0	0	1	6
Robinson, Eugene, Sea.	1	0	0	1	6
Robinson, Jerry, Raiders	1	0	0	1	6
Ross, Kevin, K.C.	1	0	0	1	6
Saleaumua, Dan, K.C.	1	0	0	1	6
Schwedes, Scott, Mia.	1	0	1	0	6
Sharpe, Shannon, Den.	1	0	1	0	6
Smith, Leonard, Buff.	1	0	1	0	6
Sochia, Brian, Mia.	1	0	0	1	6
Stone, Dwight, Pitt.	1	0	1	0	6
Stradford, Troy, Mia.	1	1	0	0	6
Talley, Darryl, Buff.	1	0	0	1	6
Taylor, Kitrick, S.D.	1	0	0	1	6
Taylor, Troy, Jets	1	1	0	0	6
Townsend, Greg, Raiders	1	0	0	1	6
Verdin, Clarence, Ind.	1	0	1	0	6
Walker, Derrick, S.D.	1	0	1	0	6
Warren, Chris, Sea.	1	1	0	0	6
Whitaker, Danta, K.C.	1	0	1	0	6
Williams, Brent, N.E.	1	0	0	1	6
Williams, James, Buff.	1	0	0	1	6
Williams, Jarvis, Mia.	1	0	0	1	6
Woodson, Rod, Pitt.	1	0	0	1	6
Byrd, Dennis, Jets	0	0	0	0	*2
Childress, Ray, Hou.	0	0	0	0	*2
Fletcher, Simon, Den.	0	0	0	0	*2
Fulcher, David, Cin.	0	0	0	0	*2
Grossman, Burt, S.D.	0	0	0	0	*2
Maas, Bill, K.C.	0	0	0	0	*2
Stowe, Tyrone, Pitt.	0	0	0	0	*2

* Safety

RUSHING

RECORDS

Carries: 388, Eric Dickerson, Indianapolis (1988)
Yards: 2,003; O.J. Simpson, Buffalo (1973)
TDs: 19, Earl Campbell, Houston (1979)
19, Chuck Muncie, San Diego (1981)

	ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
San Diego	484	2257	4.7	52	14
N.Y. Jets	476	2127	4.5	41	16
Cincinnati	484	2120	4.4	156	16
Buffalo	479	2080	4.3	180	20
L.A. Raiders	496	2028	4.1	88	20
Kansas City	504	1948	3.9	153	11
Pittsburgh	456	1880	4.1	170	11
Denver	462	1872	4.1	137	19
Seattle	457	1749	3.8	36	18
Miami	420	1535	3.7	33	13
Houston	328	1417	4.3	31	10

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PASSING

RECORDS

Completions: 378, Dan Marino, Miami (1986)

Touchdowns: 48, Dan Marino, Miami (1984)

Yards: 5,084, Dan Marino, Miami (1984)

Longest for TD: 99 yards, Jim Plunkett to Cliff Branch, Los Angeles (1983)

	ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS	AVG	TD	PCT TD	LONG	INT	PCT INT	SACK	YDS LOST	RATING
Kelly, Jim, <i>Buff.</i>	346	219	63.3	2829	8.18	24	6.9	71	9	2.6	20	158	101.2
Moon, Warren, <i>Hou.</i>	584	362	62.0	4689	8.03	33	5.7	187	13	2.2	36	252	96.8
DeBerg, Steve, <i>K.C.</i>	444	258	58.1	3444	7.76	23	5.2	190	4	0.9	22	191	96.3
Schroeder, Jay, <i>Raiders</i>	334	182	54.5	2849	8.53	19	5.7	168	9	2.7	29	197	90.8
Marino, Dan, <i>Mia.</i>	531	306	57.6	3563	6.71	21	4.0	169	11	2.1	15	90	82.6
Briser, Bobby, <i>Pitt.</i>	387	223	57.6	2725	7.04	20	5.2	90	14	3.6	28	213	81.6
Elway, John, <i>Den.</i>	502	294	58.6	3526	7.02	15	3.0	66	14	2.8	43	311	78.5
O'Brien, Ken, <i>Jets</i>	411	226	55.0	2855	6.95	13	3.2	169	10	2.4	34	262	77.3
Estason, Boomer, <i>Cin.</i>	402	224	55.7	3031	7.54	24	6.0	53	22	5.5	31	198	77.0
George, Jeff, <i>Ind.</i>	334	181	54.2	2152	6.44	16	4.8	75	13	3.9	37	320	73.8
Krieg, Dave, <i>Sea</i>	448	265	59.2	3194	7.13	15	3.3	163	20	4.5	40	360	73.6
Tolliver, Billy Joe, <i>S.D.</i>	410	216	52.7	2574	6.28	16	3.9	145	16	3.9	19	150	68.9
Kosar, Bernie, <i>Clev.</i>	423	230	54.4	2562	6.06	10	2.4	50	15	3.5	37	220	65.7
Wilson, Mark, <i>N.E.</i>	265	139	52.5	1625	6.13	6	2.3	136	11	4.2	29	228	61.6

NON-QUALIFIERS (10 or more attempts)

Taylor, Troy, <i>Jets</i>	10	7	70.0	49	4.90	1	10.0	15	0	0.0	2	3	114.2
Carlson, Cody, <i>Hou.</i>	55	37	67.3	383	6.96	4	7.3	153	2	3.6	3	15	96.3
Reich, Frank, <i>Buff.</i>	63	36	57.1	469	7.44	2	3.2	43	0	0.0	6	41	91.3
Wilhelm, Erik, <i>Cin.</i>	19	12	63.2	117	6.16	0	0.0	19	0	0.0	1	2	80.4
Trudeau, Jack, <i>Ind.</i>	144	84	58.3	1078	7.49	6	4.2	73	6	4.2	14	104	78.4
Grogan, Steve, <i>N.E.</i>	92	50	54.3	615	6.68	4	4.3	48	3	3.3	9	68	76.1
Gilbert, Gale, <i>Buff.</i>	15	8	53.3	106	7.07	2	13.3	23	2	13.3	1	9	76.0
Strom, Rick, <i>Pitt.</i>	21	14	66.7	162	7.71	0	0.0	22	1	4.8	5	29	69.9
Hodson, Tom, <i>N.E.</i>	156	85	54.5	968	6.21	4	2.6	56	5	3.2	20	147	68.5
Friesz, John, <i>S.D.</i>	22	11	50.0	98	4.45	1	4.5	17	1	4.5	1	7	58.5
Eason, Tony, <i>Jets</i>	28	13	46.4	155	5.54	0	0.0	31	1	3.6	4	35	49.0
Pagel, Mike, <i>Clev.</i>	148	69	46.6	819	5.53	3	2.0	32	8	5.4	5	40	48.2
Vlasic, Mark, <i>S.D.</i>	40	19	47.5	168	4.20	1	2.5	27	2	5.0	0	0	46.7
Kubiak, Gary, <i>Den.</i>	22	11	50.0	145	6.59	0	0.0	36	4	18.2	3	19	31.6

PUNTING

RECORDS

Number: 105, Bob Scarpitto, Denver (1967)

Average: 46.2 yards, Dave Lewis, Cincinnati (1970)

Longest: 98 yards, Steve O'Neal, New York (1969)

	NO	YARDS	LONG	AVG	TD	BLK	OPP RET	RET YDS	IN 20	NET AVG
Horan, Mike, <i>Den.</i>	58	2575	67	44.4	6	1	22	159	14	38.9
Stark, Rohn, <i>Ind.</i>	71	3084	61	43.4	3	1	42	334	24	37.4
Johnson, Lee, <i>Cin.</i>	64	2705	70	42.3	8	0	36	352	12	34.3
Roby, Reggie, <i>Mia.</i>	72	3022	62	42.0	3	0	40	397	20	35.6
Hansen, Brian, <i>N.E.</i>	90	3752	69	41.7	8	2	50	503	18	33.6
Donnelly, Rick, <i>Sea.</i>	67	2722	54	40.6	8	0	29	254	18	34.4
Prokop, Joe, <i>Jets</i>	59	2363	58	40.1	3	0	33	257	18	34.7
Kidd, John, <i>S.D.</i>	61	2442	59	40.0	2	1	28	131	14	36.6
Tuten, Rick, <i>Buff.</i>	53	2107	55	39.8	4	0	26	214	12	34.2
Wagner, Bryan, <i>Clev.</i>	74	2879	65	38.9	2	4	41	425	13	30.9
Barker, Bryan, <i>K.C.</i>	64	2479	56	38.7	1	0	38	324	16	33.4
Gossett, Jeff, <i>Raiders</i>	60	2315	57	38.6	4	2	24	153	19	33.6
Stryzinski, Dan, <i>Pitt.</i>	65	2454	51	37.8	5	1	16	105	18	34.1

NON-QUALIFIERS

Montgomery, Greg, <i>Hou.</i>	34	1530	60	45.0	5	0	23	186	7	36.6
Nies, John, <i>Buff.</i>	5	174	39	34.8	0	0	5	37	0	27.4
Breech, Jim, <i>Cin.</i>	1	34	34	34.0	1	0	0	0	0	14.0
Elway, John, <i>Den.</i>	1	37	37	37.0	1	0	0	0	0	17.0
Leahy, Pat, <i>Jets</i>	1	12	12	12.0	0	0	1	0	0	12.0
O'Brien, Ken, <i>Jets</i>	1	23	23	23.0	0	0	1	12	0	11.0

Leader based on average, minimum 40 punts

New England	383	1398	3.7	29	4	Okoye, Christian, <i>K.C.</i>	245	805	3.3	32	7
Indianapolis	335	1282	3.8	43	9	Hoge, Merrill, <i>Pitt.</i>	203	772	3.8	141	7
Cleveland	345	1220	3.5	42	10	Williams, John L., <i>Sea.</i>	187	714	3.8	25	3

12 or more yards	ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Thomas, Thurman, <i>Buff.</i>	271	1297	4.8	180	11
Butts, Marion, <i>S.D.</i>	265	1225	4.6	52	8
Humphrey, Bobby, <i>Den.</i>	288	1202	4.2	137	7
Word, Barry, <i>K.C.</i>	204	1015	5.0	153	4
Brooks, James, <i>Cin.</i>	195	1004	5.1	156	5
Fenner, Derrick, <i>Sea.</i>	215	859	4.0	36	14
Smith, Sammie, <i>Mia.</i>	226	831	3.7	33	8
Stephens, John, <i>N.E.</i>	212	808	3.8	26	2
White, Lorenzo, <i>Hou.</i>	168	702	4.2	22	8
Jackson, Bo, <i>Raiders</i>	125	698	5.6	88	5
Allen, Marcus, <i>Raiders</i>	179	682	3.8	28	12
Dickerson, Eric, <i>Ind.</i>	166	677	4.1	43	4
Thomas, Blair, <i>Jets</i>	123	620	5.0	41	1
Bernstine, Rod, <i>S.D.</i>	124	589	4.8	140	4
Bentley, Albert, <i>Ind.</i>	137	556	4.1	126	4
Baxter, Brad, <i>Jets</i>	124	539	4.3	128	6

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McNeil, Freeman, <i>Jets</i>	99	458	4.6	29	6
Worley, Tim, <i>Pitt.</i>	109	418	3.8	38	0
Williams, Warren, <i>Pitt.</i>	68	389	5.7	170	3
Hector, Johnny, <i>Jets</i>	91	377	4.1	22	2
Harmon, Ronnie, <i>S.D.</i>	66	363	5.5	41	0
Green, Harold, <i>Cin.</i>	83	353	4.3	39	1
Smith, Steve, <i>Raiders</i>	81	327	4.0	17	2
Logan, Marc, <i>Mia.</i>	79	317	4.0	17	2
Davis, Kenneth, <i>Buff.</i>	64	302	4.7	47	4
Pinkett, Allen, <i>Hou.</i>	66	268	4.1	19	0
Woods, Ickey, <i>Cin.</i>	64	268	4.2	32	6
Elway, John, <i>Den.</i>	50	258	5.2	21	3
Metcalf, Eric, <i>Clev.</i>	80	248	3.1	17	1
Allen, Marvin, <i>N.E.</i>	63	237	3.8	29	1
Taylor, Craig, <i>Cin.</i>	51	216	4.2	24	2
Moon, Warren, <i>Hou.</i>	55	215	3.9	17	2
Mueller, Jamie, <i>Buff.</i>	59	207	3.5	20	2



WEBSTER SLAUGHTER

Foster, Barry, <i>Pitt.</i>	36	203	5.6	38	1
Bell, Greg, <i>Raiders</i>	47	164	3.5	21	1
Esiason, Boomer, <i>Cin.</i>	49	157	3.2	21	0
Hoard, Leroy, <i>Clev.</i>	58	149	2.6	42	3
Stradford, Troy, <i>Mia.</i>	37	138	3.7	15	1
Winder, Sammy, <i>Den.</i>	42	120	2.9	19	2
Krieg, Dave, <i>Sea.</i>	32	115	3.6	25	0
Adams, George, <i>N.E.</i>	28	111	4.0	13	0
Perryman, Bob, <i>N.E.</i>	32	97	3.0	13	1
Paige, Tony, <i>Mia.</i>	32	95	3.0	11	2
Bratton, Mel, <i>Den.</i>	27	82	3.0	10	3
Smith, Don, <i>Buff.</i>	20	82	4.1	13	2
Ezro, Blake, <i>Den.</i>	23	81	3.5	15	0
Gainer, Derrick, <i>Clev.</i>	30	81	2.7	9	1
Schroeder, Jay, <i>Raiders</i>	37	81	2.2	17	0
Hodson, Tom, <i>N.E.</i>	12	79	6.6	23	0
Jones, Victor, <i>Hou.</i>	14	75	5.4	14	0
Ball, Eric, <i>Cin.</i>	22	72	3.3	15	1
O'Brien, Ken, <i>Jets</i>	21	72	3.4	15	0
Higgs, Mark, <i>Mia.</i>	10	67	6.7	27	0
Givins, Ernest, <i>Hou.</i>	3	65	21.7	31	0
Brister, Bubby, <i>Pitt.</i>	25	64	2.6	11	0
Kelly, Jim, <i>Buff.</i>	22	63	2.9	15	0
McNair, Todd, <i>K.C.</i>	14	61	4.4	13	0
Tatupu, Mosi, <i>N.E.</i>	16	56	3.5	15	0

Carlson, Cody, <i>Hou.</i>	11	52	4.7	16	0
Kubiak, Gary, <i>Den.</i>	9	52	5.8	18	0
Jones, Bill, <i>K.C.</i>	10	47	4.7	14	0
Jennings, Stanford, <i>Cin.</i>	12	46	3.8	13	1
Sewell, Steve, <i>Den.</i>	17	46	2.7	8	3
Mueller, Vance, <i>Raiders</i>	13	43	3.3	12	0
Gardner, Carwell, <i>Buff.</i>	15	41	2.7	14	0
Secules, Scott, <i>Mia.</i>	8	34	4.3	17	0
Eason, Tony, <i>Jets</i>	7	29	4.1	24	0
Marino, Dan, <i>Mia.</i>	16	29	1.8	15	0
Slaughter, Webster, <i>Clev.</i>	5	29	5.8	17	0
Jackson, Mark, <i>Den.</i>	5	28	5.6	116	1
Trudeau, Jack, <i>Ind.</i>	10	28	2.8	9	0
Lewis, Nate, <i>S.D.</i>	4	25	6.3	110	1
McCallum, Napoleon, <i>Raiders</i> ..	10	25	2.5	6	0
Reich, Frank, <i>Buff.</i>	15	24	1.6	9	0
Beebe, Don, <i>Buff.</i>	1	23	23.0	23	0
Reed, Andre, <i>Buff.</i>	3	23	7.7	26	0
Tolliver, Billy Joe, <i>S.D.</i>	14	22	1.6	14	0
Jones, James, <i>Sea.</i>	5	20	4.0	5	0
Taylor, Troy, <i>Jets</i>	2	20	10.0	15	1
Blades, Brian, <i>Sea.</i>	3	19	6.3	12	0
Bell, Richard, <i>Pitt.</i>	5	18	3.6	12	0
Kinnebrew, Larry, <i>Buff.</i>	9	18	2.0	4	1
Stryzinski, Dan, <i>Pitt.</i>	3	17	5.7	9	0
Saxon, James, <i>K.C.</i>	3	15	5.0	8	0
Limbrick, Garrett, <i>Mia.</i>	5	14	2.8	5	0
Nelson, Darrin, <i>S.D.</i>	3	14	4.7	5	0
Kosar, Bernie, <i>Clev.</i>	10	13	1.3	5	0
Miller, Anthony, <i>S.D.</i>	3	13	4.3	10	0
Loville, Derek, <i>Sea.</i>	7	12	1.7	4	0

PASS RECEIVING

RECORDS

Receptions: 101, Charlie Hennigan, Houston (1964)

Yards: 1,746, Charlie Hennigan, Houston (1961)

TDs: 18, Mark Clayton, Miami (1984)

5 or more receptions	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Jeffries, Haywood, <i>Hou.</i>	74	1048	14.2	187	8
Hill, Drew, <i>Hou.</i>	74	1019	13.8	57	5
Williams, John L., <i>Sea.</i>	73	699	9.6	60	0
Givins, Ernest, <i>Hou.</i>	72	979	13.6	180	9
Reed, Andre, <i>Buff.</i>	71	945	13.3	156	8
Bentley, Albert, <i>Ind.</i>	71	664	9.4	73	2
Duncan, Curtis, <i>Hou.</i>	66	785	11.9	137	1
Paige, Stephone, <i>K.C.</i>	65	1021	15.7	186	5
Miller, Anthony, <i>S.D.</i>	63	933	14.8	131	7
Brooks, Bill, <i>Ind.</i>	62	823	13.3	75	5
Slaughter, Webster, <i>Clev.</i>	59	847	14.4	50	4
Jackson, Mark, <i>Den.</i>	57	926	16.2	66	4
Toon, Al, <i>Jets</i>	57	757	13.3	146	6
Metcalf, Eric, <i>Clev.</i>	57	452	7.9	35	1
Hester, Jessie, <i>Ind.</i>	54	924	17.1	164	6
Fryar, Irving, <i>N.E.</i>	54	856	15.9	56	4
Johnson, Vance, <i>Den.</i>	54	747	13.8	49	3
Fernandez, Mervyn, <i>Raiders</i>	52	839	16.1	166	5
Duper, Mark, <i>Mia.</i>	52	810	15.6	169	5
Kane, Tommy, <i>Sea.</i>	52	776	14.9	163	4
Cook, Marv, <i>N.E.</i>	51	455	8.9	135	5
Gault, Willie, <i>Raiders</i>	50	985	19.7	168	3
Lipps, Louis, <i>Pitt.</i>	50	682	13.6	37	3
Thomas, Thurman, <i>Buff.</i>	49	532	10.9	63	2
Blades, Brian, <i>Sea.</i>	49	525	10.7	24	3
Harmon, Ronnie, <i>S.D.</i>	46	511	11.1	136	2
Langhorne, Reggie, <i>Clev.</i>	45	585	13.0	39	2
Brennan, Brian, <i>Clev.</i>	45	568	12.6	28	2
Brown, Eddie, <i>Cin.</i>	44	706	16.0	150	9
Moore, Rob, <i>Jets</i>	44	692	15.7	169	6
Jensen, Jim, <i>Mia.</i>	44	365	8.3	18	1
McGee, Tim, <i>Cin.</i>	43	737	17.1	52	1
Mack, Kevin, <i>Clev.</i>	42	360	8.6	30	2
Thomas, Robb, <i>K.C.</i>	41	545	13.3	147	4
Harry, Emile, <i>K.C.</i>	41	519	12.7	60	2
Holman, Rodney, <i>Cin.</i>	40	596	14.9	53	5
McNair, Todd, <i>K.C.</i>	40	507	12.7	65	2
Hoge, Merrill, <i>Pitt.</i>	40	342	8.6	27	3
Boyer, Mark, <i>Jets</i>	40	334	8.4	25	1
White, Lorenzo, <i>Hou.</i>	39	368	9.4	29	4
Lofton, James, <i>Buff.</i>	35	712	20.3	71	4
Paige, Tony, <i>Mia.</i>	35	247	7.1	117	4
Dykes, Hart Lee, <i>N.E.</i>	34	549	16.1	135	2
McKeller, Keith, <i>Buff.</i>	34	464	13.6	43	5

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Green, Eric, Pitt	34	387	11.4	46	7
Horton, Ethan, Raiders	33	404	12.2	36	3
Clayton, Mark, Mia	32	406	12.7	43	3
Mularkey, Mike, Pitt	32	365	11.4	28	3
Edmunds, Ferrell, Mia	31	446	14.4	35	1
Jones, Tony, Hou	30	409	13.6	47	6
Stradford, Troy, Mia	30	257	8.6	23	0
Martin, Tony, Mia	29	388	13.4	45	2
McEwen, Craig, S.D.	29	325	11.2	32	3
Kay, Clarence, Den	29	282	9.7	22	0
Bratton, Mel, Den	29	276	9.5	63	1
Young, Mike, Den	28	385	13.8	42	4
Stephens, John, N.E.	28	196	7.0	43	1
Chadwick, Jeff, Sea	27	478	17.7	154	4
Brooks, James, Cin	26	269	10.3	35	4
Sewell, Steve, Den	26	268	10.3	36	0
Hill, Derek, Pitt	25	391	15.6	66	0
Humphrey, Bobby, Den	24	152	6.3	26	0
Morgan, Stanley, Ind	23	364	15.8	142	5
Newsome, Ozzie, Clev	23	240	10.4	38	2
Walker, Derrick, S.D.	23	240	10.4	23	1
Skansi, Paul, Sea	22	257	11.7	125	2
McMurtry, Greg, N.E.	22	240	10.9	26	0
Jones, Cedric, N.E.	21	301	14.3	26	0
Smith, Don, Buff	21	225	10.7	39	0
Thomas, Blair, Jets	20	204	10.2	55	1
Woods, Ickey, Cin	20	162	8.1	22	0
Stone, Dwight, Pitt	19	332	17.5	90	1
Mathis, Terance, Jets	19	245	12.9	23	0
Jones, Bill, K.C.	19	137	7.2	19	5
Nattiel, Ricky, Den	18	297	16.5	152	2
Brown, Tim, Raiders	18	265	14.7	51	3
Dickerson, Eric, Ind	18	92	5.1	17	0
Winder, Sammy, Den	17	145	8.5	17	0
Fenner, Derrick, Sea	17	143	8.4	50	1
McNeil, Freeman, Jets	16	230	14.4	59	0
Adams, George, N.E.	16	146	9.1	28	1
Butts, Marion, S.D.	16	117	7.3	26	0
Mueller, Jamie, Buff	16	106	6.6	30	1
Birden, J.J., K.C.	15	352	23.5	190	3
Early, Quinn, S.D.	15	238	15.9	145	1
Allen, Marcus, Raiders	15	189	12.6	30	1
Perryman, Bob, N.E.	15	88	5.9	15	0
Burkett, Chris, Jets	14	204	14.6	46	0
Barber, Mike, Cin	14	196	14.0	28	1
Lewis, Nate, S.D.	14	192	13.7	40	1
Verdin, Clarence, Ind	14	178	12.7	45	1
Cox, Arthur, S.D.	14	93	6.6	12	1
Pruitt, James, Mia	13	235	18.1	135	3
Harris, Leonard, Hou	13	172	13.2	142	3
Heller, Ron, Sea	13	157	12.1	23	1
Banks, Fred, Mia	13	131	10.1	23	0
Bell, Richard, Pitt	12	137	11.4	43	1
Beach, Pat, Ind	12	124	10.3	21	1
Green, Harold, Cin	12	90	7.5	22	1
Beebe, Don, Buff	11	221	20.1	49	1
Kattus, Eric, Cin	11	145	13.2	31	2
Smith, Sammie, Mia	11	134	12.2	153	1
Roberts, Alfredo, K.C.	11	119	10.8	27	0
Pinkett, Allen, Hou	11	85	7.7	38	0
McNeal, Travis, Sea	10	143	14.3	30	0
Calloway, Chris, Pitt	10	124	12.4	120	1
Ford, Bernard, Hou	10	98	9.8	24	1
Wilson, Walter, S.D.	10	87	8.7	20	0
Hoard, Leroy, Clev	10	73	7.3	17	0
Metzelaars, Pete, Buff	10	60	6.0	12	1
Hayes, Jonathan, K.C.	9	83	9.2	21	1
Davis, Keneth, Buff	9	78	8.7	16	1
Riggs, Jim, Cin	8	79	9.9	21	0
Sievers, Eric, N.E.	8	77	9.6	25	0
Baxter, Brad, Jets	8	73	9.1	22	0
Hector, Johnny, Jets	8	72	9.0	25	0
Worley, Tim, Pitt	8	70	8.8	27	0
Mobley, Orson, Den	8	41	5.1	9	0
Bernstine, Rod, S.D.	8	40	5.0	11	0
Sharpe, Shannon, Den	7	99	14.1	33	1
Mandley, Pete, K.C.	7	97	13.9	24	0
Gainer, Derrick, Clev	7	85	12.1	20	0
Logan, Marc, Mia	7	54	7.7	12	0
Smith, Kendal, Cin	7	45	6.4	11	0
Joiner, Vernon, Clev	6	86	14.3	24	0
Jackson, Bo, Raiders	6	68	11.3	18	0

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Mowatt, Zeke, N.E.	6	67	11.2	16	0
Dressel, Chris, Jets	6	66	11.0	21	0
Schwedes, Scott, Mia	6	66	11.0	19	1
Allen, Marvin, N.E.	6	48	8.0	19	0
Timpson, Michael, N.E.	5	91	18.2	42	0
Dawkins, Dale, Jets	5	68	13.6	31	0
McNeil, Gerald, Hou.	5	63	12.6	16	0
Wellsandt, Doug, Jets	5	57	11.4	20	0
Williams, Warren, Pitt.	5	42	8.4	13	1
Johnson, Anthony, Ind.	5	32	6.4	115	2
Clark, Ken, Ind.	5	23	4.6	11	0

INTERCEPTIONS

RECORDS

Number: 13, Lester Hayes, Oakland (1980)

Yards: 349, Charlie McNeil, San Diego (1961)

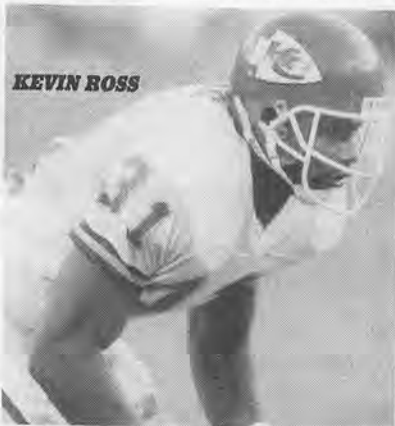
Longest return: 103 yards,

Vencie Glenn, San Diego (1987)

TDs: 4, Ken Houston, Houston (1971)

4, Jim Kearney, Kansas City (1972)

2 or more	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Johnson, Richard, Hou.	8	100	12.5	35	1
Byrd, Gill, S.D.	7	63	9.0	24	0
Ross, Kevin, K.C.	5	97	19.4	40	0
McMillan, Erik, Jets	5	92	18.4	25	0
Oliver, Louis, Mia	5	87	17.4	35	0
Williams, Jarvis, Mia	5	82	16.4	142	1
Woodson, Rod, Pitt.	5	67	13.4	34	0
Lippett, Ronnie, N.E.	4	94	23.5	73	0
Griffin, Larry, Pitt.	4	75	18.8	36	0
Kinard, Terry, Hou.	4	75	18.8	47	0
Hurst, Maurice, N.E.	4	61	15.3	36	0
Dishman, Cris, Hou.	4	50	12.5	42	0
McKyer, Tim, Mia	4	40	10.0	21	0
Bussey, Barney, Cin.	4	37	9.3	18	0
Fulcher, David, Cin	4	20	5.0	18	0



KEVIN ROSS

Marion, Fred, N.E.	4	17	4.3	16	0
Woodruff, Dwayne, Pitt.	3	110	36.7	59	0
Robinson, Eugene, Sea.	3	89	29.7	39	0
Harper, Dwayne, Sea.	3	69	23.0	47	0
Prior, Mike, Ind.	3	66	22.0	36	0
Wright, Felix, Clev.	3	56	18.7	36	0
Anderson, Eddie, Raiders	3	49	16.3	31	0
Clifton, Kyle, Jets	3	49	16.3	39	0
Cherry, Deron, K.C.	3	40	13.3	21	0
Billups, Lewis, Cin.	3	39	13.0	29	0
Petry, Stan, K.C.	3	33	11.0	133	1
Donaldson, Jeff, K.C.	3	28	9.3	14	0
Washington, Brian, Jets	3	22	7.3	13	0
McDaniel, Terry, Raiders	3	20	6.7	15	0
Harden, Mike, Raiders	3	19	6.3	15	0
Jackson, Kirby, Buff.	3	16	5.3	14	0
Everett, Thomas, Pitt.	3	2	0.7	2	0
Henderson, Wymon, Den.	2	71	35.5	149	1
Johnson, David, Pitt.	2	60	30.0	34	1
Talley, Darryl, Buff.	2	60	30.0	160	1
Taylor, Keith, Ind.	2	51	25.5	40	0
Blaylock, Anthony, Clev.	2	45	22.5	45	0
Curtis, Travis, Jets	2	45	22.5	23	0
Montgomery, Alton, Den.	2	43	21.5	24	0
Smith, Leonard, Buff.	2	39	19.5	139	1

Atwater, Steve, Den.	2	32	16.0	27	0
Glenn, Kerry, Mia	2	31	15.5	131	1
Wyman, David, Sea.	2	24	12.0	22	0
Hagy, John, Buff.	2	23	11.5	23	0
Rembert, Johnny, N.E.	2	22	11.0	11	0
Lewis, Albert, K.C.	2	15	7.5	15	0
Seale, Sam, S.D.	2	14	7.0	14	0
Braggs, Stephen, Clev.	2	13	6.5	11	0
Smith, Billy Ray, S.D.	2	12	6.0	12	0
McDowell, Bubba, Hou.	2	11	5.5	11	0
Frank, Donald, S.D.	2	8	4.0	4	0
Hasty, James, Jets	2	0	0.0	0	0
Kelso, Mark, Buff.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Minnifield, Frank, Clev.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Williams, James, Buff.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Stargell, Tony, Jets	2	-3	-1.5	0	0



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TIM BROWN

PUNT RETURNS

RECORDS

Number: 62, Fulton Walker, Los Angeles (1985)

Yards: 692, Fulton Walker, Los Angeles (1985)

Longest for TD: 98 yards,

Terance Mathis, New York (1990)

2 or more	NO	FC	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Verdin, Clarence, Ind.	31	3	396	12.8	36	0
Woodson, Rod, Pitt.	38	8	398	10.5	152	1
Warren, Chris, Sea.	28	16	269	9.6	39	0
Brown, Tim, Raiders	34	8	295	8.7	39	0
Price, Mitchell, Cin.	29	14	251	8.7	166	1
Clark, Kevin, Den.	21	1	159	7.6	32	0
Worthen, Naz, K.C.	25	3	180	7.2	37	0
McNeil, Gerald, Hou.	30	20	172	5.7	26	0
Martin, Tony, Mia	26	9	140	5.4	35	0
Fryar, Irving, N.E.	28	10	133	4.8	17	0

NON-QUALIFIERS

Townsell, JoJo, Jets	17	4	154	9.1	20	0
Schwedes, Scott, S.D.-Mia	14	3	122	8.7	23	0
Edwards, Al, Buff.	14	5	92	6.6	16	0
Lewis, Nate, S.D.	13	8	117	9.0	163	1
Adams, Stefon, Clev.	13	4	81	6.2	25	0
Mathis, Terance, Jets	11	7	165	15.0	198	1
Johnson, Vance, Den.	11	11	92	8.4	29	0
Hale, Chris, Buff.	10	4	76	7.6	25	0
Birden, J.J., K.C.	10	3	72	7.2	22	0
Brennan, Brian, Clev.	9	4	72	8.0	15	0
Jefferson, James, Sea.	8	0	68	8.5	14	0
Mays, Jerry, S.D.	7	4	30	4.3	17	0
Taylor, Kilrick, S.D.	6	3	112	18.7	155	1
Nelson, Darrin, S.D.	3	0	44	14.7	33	0
Stradford, Troy, Mia	3	2	4	1.3	4	0
Grant, Alan, Ind.	2	0	6	3.0	6	0
Prior, Mike, Ind.	2	6	0	0.0	0	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

RECORDS

Numbers: 55, Bruce Harper, New York (1978, 1979)

55, David Turner, Cincinnati (1979)

Yards: 1,317, Bobby Jancik, Houston (1963)

Longest: 106 yards,

Nolan Smith, Kansas City (1967)

TDs: 3, Ray Clayborn, New England (1977)

3 or more	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Clark, Kevin, Den.	20	505	25.3	75	0
Elder, Donnie, S.D.	24	571	23.8	90	0
Woodson, Rod, Pitt.	135	764	21.8	49	0
Warren, Chris, Sea	23	478	20.8	71	0
Martin, Sammy, N.E.	25	515	20.6	38	0
Holland, Jamie, Raiders	32	655	20.5	87	0
McNeil, Gerald, Hou.	27	551	20.4	64	0
Metcalfe, Eric, Clev.	52	1052	20.2	1101	2
Jennings, Stanford, Cin.	29	584	20.1	33	0
Smith, Don, Buff.	32	643	20.1	38	0
Brown, Ron, Raiders	30	575	19.2	34	0
Logan, Marc, Mia	20	367	18.4	35	0
Mathis, Terance, Jets	43	787	18.3	35	0

NON-QUALIFIERS

Simmons, Stacey, Ind.	19	348	18.3	34	0
Loville, Derek, Sea.	18	359	19.9	29	0
Verdin, Clarence, Ind.	18	350	19.4	44	0
Lewis, Nate, S.D.	17	383	22.5	39	0
Ball, Eric, Cin.	16	366	22.9	38	0
Grant, Alan, Ind.	15	280	18.7	29	0
Montgomery, Alton, Den.	14	286	20.4	59	0
McNair, Todd, K.C.	14	227	16.2	23	0
Ford, Bernard, Hou.	14	219	15.6	23	0
Ezor, Blake, Den.	13	214	16.5	50	0
Edwards, Al, Buff.	11	256	23.3	54	0
Worthen, Naz, K.C.	11	226	20.5	32	0
Bentley, Albert, Ind.	11	211	19.2	36	0
Robinson, Junior, N.E.	11	211	19.2	27	0
Morris, Jamie, N.E.	11	202	18.4	22	0
Allen, Marvin, N.E.	11	168	15.3	34	0
Higgs, Mark, Mia	10	210	21.0	30	0
Price, Mitchell, Cin.	110	191	19.1	33	0
Overton, Don, N.E.	10	188	18.8	23	0
Jones, Fred, K.C.	9	175	19.4	46	0
Frank, Donald, S.D.	8	172	21.5	31	0
Townsell, JoJo, Jets	7	158	22.6	38	0
Johnson, Vance, Den.	6	126	21.0	39	0
Beebe, Don, Buff.	6	119	19.8	27	0
Fullwood, Brent, Clev.	6	119	19.8	27	0
Stone, Dwight, Pitt.	5	91	18.2	24	0
Odegard, Don, Jets	5	89	17.8	25	0
Saxon, James, K.C.	5	81	16.2	23	0
Adams, Stefon, Clev.-Mia	5	49	9.8	15	0
Jefferson, James, Sea.	4	96	24.0	26	0
Pinkett, Allen, Hou.	4	91	22.8	28	0
Winder, Sammy, Den.	4	55	13.8	24	0
Mandley, Pete, K.C.	4	51	12.8	23	0
Nelson, Darrin, S.D.	4	36	9.0	26	0
Timpson, Michael, N.E.	3	62	20.7	26	0
Stradford, Troy, Mia	3	56	18.7	21	0
Bratton, Mel, Den.	3	37	12.3	18	0
Williams, Jerrol, Pitt.	3	31	10.3	20	0
Foster, Barry, Pitt.	3	29	9.7	13	0
Galbraith, Scott, Clev.	3	16	5.3	10	0



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